

New Kuwaitis allowed to return temporarily

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Foreign nationals who have been dismissed from their jobs in Kuwait will be allowed brief visits to collect severance pay and bank savings, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported Saturday. The Kuwaiti government, during its exile after the Iraqi invasion last Aug. 2, terminated the services of all non-Kuwaitis. The government has said some may be retained, but only if there are no Kuwaitis for the jobs. Press reports have said that of 106,000 foreigners who worked as civil servants before the invasion, up to 45,000 would be told they cannot return to work. "Al Qabas" newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying that Kuwait government employees could obtain visitors' visas to complete the paperwork at the ministries where they were employed and to take care of personal business, such as leases. "Ministries could also transfer the money to the bank accounts of these people abroad through Kuwaiti banks after deducting any unpaid telephone or electricity bills," the sources were quoted as saying. They also said that female civil servants could give a power of attorney, authenticated by a Kuwaiti embassy, to a male relative who then would be allowed to do the necessary paper work and receive the money.

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Bush sends Gorbachev arms control message

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush sent Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev a message Saturday, dealing with arms control, a senior administration official said. Jack Matlock, the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, delivered the oral message, said White House spokesman Roman Popaduk. Mr. Popaduk said he had no details about the message, but the administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity said "It dealt with arms control." TASS, the Soviet news agency, reported that Mr. Matlock gave Mr. Gorbachev an "urgent" message during a brief meeting.

Perez De Cuellar arrives in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived here Saturday for talks with Turkish leaders in search of a solution to the problem of divided Cyprus. His visit comes at a time of heightened activity aimed at reuniting Cyprus. Mr. Perez de Cuellar would like to come up with a formula acceptable to both sides to restart a peace process which stalled last year, with each of the two communities on the island accusing the other of intransigence.

Azerbaijani troops attack Armenians

MOSCOW (AP) — Azerbaijani troops clashed with Armenian villagers Saturday leaving three people dead and at least 14 injured, the Interfax news agency reported. The agency said Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian convened a special session of the republic's parliament to discuss the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the border area with neighbouring Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh is a mostly Armenian enclave located inside Azerbaijan. Armed clashes over the past three years have left hundreds dead. The region along the border between the two republics has also been tense for the past several months. Armenian have charged that Azerbaijani troops have been attacking mainly Armenian villages.

Five killed in scud attack in Afghanistan

PESHAWAR (AP) — Government forces fired at least three Scud missiles at guerrillas in southern Afghanistan, killing at least five people, the rebels said Saturday. The Scud missiles were fired Friday and apparently were aimed at Al Fatah, a huge base camp and one of the headquarters of fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, guerrilla sources said. Mr. Hekmatyar was not at the base, they added. Only one of the missiles hit the base, while two fell on other areas in southern Paktia province, the sources said. They said preliminary reports indicated that at least five people were killed, but the death toll could climb as high as 25, dead once full details are known.

Rafsanjani accepts Walea invitation

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Saturday accepted President Lech Walea's invitation to visit Poland, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. It said the invitation was extended by Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski who arrived in Tehran Friday night for a three-day visit to discuss international issues and ways to improve relations. The agency did not say if a date was fixed for the visit. The minister told Mr. Rafsanjani that Roman Catholic Poland wanted to expand relations with Iran and other Muslim countries. On the turmoil in Yugoslavia, Mr. Skubiszewski told reporters the country must retain its unity. He stressed that Belgrade must tackle independence by Croatia and Serbia through political dialogue and not military force. IRNA reported.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Jordan, China agree on need for U.N. efforts, application of 242, 338

King, Li hold 'very good' talks

By Nermen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and China agreed Saturday on the need to exert more effort towards solving regional problems through the United Nations and the proper application of Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian problem.

The agreement came in a meeting held between His Majesty King Hussein and Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng at Raghadan

Palace immediately after the Chinese leader arrived in Amman on the second leg of a six-country tour of the Middle East.

After the meeting, King Hussein told Jordan Television's Arabic service that his talks with Premier Li were "comfortable, clear, comprehensive with positive results and total agreement, in my opinion, on most issues."

The spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry told reporters that the talks were "very good" and that there was agreement

between the Jordanian and Chinese sides to further promote friendly relations between the two countries.

The spokesman, Wu Jianmin, added that his country, a member of the U.N. Security Council, favours a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference in the Middle East as a conclusion to efforts to resolve the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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Hrawi urges U.S. to press Israel into leaving Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon urged the United States Saturday to push for an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon strongholds within artillery range of Palestinian bases seized by the army.

President Elias Hrawi called for Washington's help to secure an Israeli pullout in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 in talks with U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, official sources said.

The Lebanese government, which used thousands of troops in a four-day offensive to seize Palestinian bases wants Israel to withdraw its troops and an allied militia from Jezzine, 12 kilometres east of Sidon, and then abandon its self-declared "security zone" in the south.

Some of the guerrilla bases seized by the army in its first push into the south since civil war began in 1975 were only five kilometres from Israeli-held territory around Jezzine and 10 kilometres from the buffer strip.

A reporter asked Mr. Crocker

after the 90-minute meeting whether Mr. Hrawi had appealed to Washington to put pressure on Israel to withdraw. The ambassador avoided giving a direct answer, saying: "I don't conduct my diplomacy through headlines in newspapers."

But Mr. Crocker welcomed the government's drive this week and added: "We have always supported the extension of state authority over all Lebanese territory."

Another Western ambassador told Reuters: "Europe and the United States will certainly press Israel to withdraw once attacks from Lebanon cease. It is ultimately up to Israel but we will do our best."

Meanwhile a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Palestinian guerrillas, bottled up in two refugee camps on the edge of Sidon, would not meet the Sunday deadline of surrendering their heavy weapons.

Senior Lebanese army officials said a delay to work out the

logistics of the weapons' surrender was acceptable, but warned they would not tolerate stalling for tactical reasons.

The army moved Friday to encircle the refugee camps of 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mich Mieh on Sidon's eastern edge. The move came a day after PLO guerrillas retreated into the camps and agreed to surrender their heavy weapons.

The decision followed four days of battles that left 46 dead and 173 wounded. It effectively stripped the Palestinian fighters of the last Lebanon strongholds from which they could strike at Israel.

But Israel has said it is unconvinced by Lebanese claims that the army has reasserted control.

Zeid Webbeh, the PLO's political representative in Lebanon, told the Associated Press Saturday: "There will be no assembling of weapons either today or tomorrow."

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Jordanians, Palestinians seek to leave Kuwait, but face problems

Question mark hangs over Gazans with Egyptian documents

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Most members of the Jordanian and Palestinian community remaining in Kuwait are trying to leave the emirate in the face of harassment by the Kuwaitis and harsh living conditions coupled with unemployment, but those who want to leave are confronting several major problems which they have to solve before they could do so, according to social workers and welfare officials concerned with the situation in Kuwait.

Figures obtained from representatives of expatriates in Kuwait City show that the

number of Jordanians and Palestinians in the emirate has shrunk to around 107,000 from a pre-crisis level of 400,000.

"Of these, 80,000 hold Jordanian passports, 23,000 are Gazans who possess Egyptian laissez passer and 4,000 are Palestinians holding Lebanese laissez passer," according to Mohammad Ayyash Mulhem, chairman of an Amman-based committee which offers help to returning expatriates.

These figures might be the first reasonably accurate statistics available on the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in Kuwait following the war.

"All of them would like to leave Kuwait since they are subject to harassment and their living conditions are terrible," Mr. Mulhem told the Jordan Times Saturday. "Very few of them have any kind of employment and there is little choice for them except to leave," he said.

Reports in the international press of arbitrary detention and torture of Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait have dwindled in the past few days, but that does not necessarily mean that the measures have come to an end, given the fact that foreign coverage of events in Kuwait has been limited.

A report in the American

New U.N. mission arrives in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A new U.N. nuclear inspection team arrived Saturday to test Iraq's promise of full cooperation, while a second team finished destroying the country's last known ballistic missiles.

The nuclear team leader, Dimitri Periccos, said his 37 member crew would spend a week investigating reports of a secret cache of nuclear weapons-making equipment as well as other alleged nuclear sites.

Asked whether the inspectors would immediately seek out the convoy of equipment that touched off a row June 28, Mr. Periccos said only, "We will address that issue."

The week of planned inspection tours could resolve questions about Iraq's latest pledge of cooperation, which was delivered in a letter Friday to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In Washington, the White House reaffirmed U.S. President George Bush's belief that he has authority to launch a military strike if Iraq continues to block inspection of suspected nuclear weapons facilities.

A leading U.S. congressman said Saturday allied forces might have to attack Iraq again unless it complied with Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"If (Iraq) refuses to comply with (its) obligations the ceasefire should be considered null and void," said Stephen Solarz, a Democratic member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

"If so, then the fire will resume. We will have no alternative but to resume the use of force," he told reporters in Sirsank, northern Iraq.

Mr. Solarz said talk about stronger action was growing daily both in the U.S. government and other coalition countries.

He met the U.S. commander of the coalition forces in northern Iraq, expected to withdraw from the country this month, and Kurdish advisers to Jalal Talabani, one of the two top leaders of Kurdish rebels.

"I don't think the United States would use force without the sanction of the United Nations," said Rear Admiral Philip Quast aboard the USS Nimitz, an aircraft carrier in the Gulf. The Nimitz is the main naval force the United States could employ if it took military action against Iraq.

"We're certainly one of the options available," said Adm. Quast, adding, "There are still nine navies operating in these waters."

Under the U.N. ceasefire resolution ending the Gulf war, Iraq promised to cooperate with the U.N. in identifying and destroying all nuclear, chemical or biological weapons material and some long-range ballistic missiles.

(see page 2)

Extraordinary session of Parliament begins tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday asking Parliament to begin an extraordinary session on Monday, July 8, to discuss 90 draft laws and other topics.

The decree, which cited Article 82 of the Constitution as the provision for convening an extraordinary session of Parliament, said that in addition to the 90 topics on the agenda, the legislative body will also discuss draft laws on political parties, press and publication and study issues related to the abolition of martial law, protection of the national economy and national security and subjects related to parliamentary investigations into administrative and financial corruption cases.

The agenda contains the following:

Amendments to the law on the 1991 fiscal budget, import and export law of 1990, the Jordanian Investment Institution law of 1988, the 1976 law on the Pension Fund, a 1976 law on public debt, amendments to laws on the Central Bank of Jordan issued in 1975, 1979 and 1989, an amend-

ment to the 1975 law on Jordanian banks, an amendment to the 1988 law on Jordanian Engineers Association, an amendment to a 1973 law on Royal Jordanian, an amendment to RJ's 1974 law as well as amendments passed in 1980 and 1984 on the amended RJ law, a draft law on a 1991 loan agreement with Belgium, and a 1990 law on the Housing Corporation.

The agenda also includes the 1990 courts law, a 1990 law on martyrs fund, the Karak municipal court law of 1990, a draft law on the Mafrqa municipal court, a draft law on foreign investment of 1990, a draft law on the additional tax of 1990, a draft law on development of Jordanian exports of 1991, a draft law on a Jordanian corporation for guarantees exports passed in 1991, a draft law on Zarga University of 1991, a temporary law on regular courts, a temporary law on parliamentary elections, a draft law on civil defence fund, a temporary law on the national Jordanian building code, a temporary law on the care of the handicapped, a temporary law on

trade licences, a temporary law on private universities in Jordan, a temporary law on the Jordanian medical board, a temporary law on supply issued in 1989, and the companies law.

Also included are amendments to a 1989 income tax law, a temporary law on the Higher Court of Justice, a temporary law on higher education, an amendment to Jordanian universities law, a temporary law on consumption, temporary laws on education, social security, the Jordan Farmers Federation, the Organisation of Cities and Villages, municipal sewerage, and customs as well as laws on tenants and landlords, civil status, Housing Bank, standards and specifications and the Audit Bureau as well as the national water strategy.

The Council of Ministers has embarked on a debate of the political parties law. A statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the council will follow up discussions on this law in its coming sessions and will submit the matter to Parliament for approval.

CBJ takes over Bank of Credit and Commerce; accounts secured

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Timely intervention by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has averted what could have been huge losses by Jordanians in deposits and other forms of accounts with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), which appears to be destined for liquidation after the seizure of its assets Friday by at least seven governments in Europe.

Hours after Friday's seizure of the bank's assets in Europe (see page 7), the CBJ issued an emergency order suspending all BCCI transactions through its three branches in Jordan for three days.

The order came in line with Jordanian banking regulations, which stipulate that all banking institutions, whether branches of international institutions or fully owned by Jordanians, are governed by the relevant laws of Jordan.

On Saturday, the CBJ followed up its action by freezing all assets, and suspended all operations of

the bank and appointing an administrative committee to run the bank's affairs. A CBJ statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said no transfer of any funds from BCCI accounts in Jordan was permitted to its headquarters in Luxembourg or any of its branches.

Banking circles and economic analysts said the CBJ has been aware of BCCI's troubles on the international level and had ordered, in April this year, that all BCCI deposits of Jordanians in foreign currency be transferred to the Central Bank.

Fakhri Bilbeisi, regional manager of BCCI in Jordan, said about 94 per cent of the deposits with the bank in foreign currency had already been transferred to the CBJ.

The foreign currency deposits of the bank are around the equivalent of JD 29 million while deposits in local currency amount to JD 36 million. In addition to the transfer of foreign currency deposits from BCCI, the CBJ also holds 15 per cent of all BCCI deposits in dinars.

"The bank's depositors will not

lose anything at all," said Mr. Bilbeisi. "It is now up to the Central Bank to decide the appropriate method to meet the demands of clients when (BCCI) branches reopen on Tuesday," he told the Jordan Times.

This was reaffirmed by CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi in an interview with Jordan Television Saturday evening.

The financial position of the bank is sound and there is enough coverage for the deposits with the bank, Dr. Nabulsi said.

"The deposits of the public with the bank are secured," the CBJ governor told Jordan Television.

The bank employs close to 100 people at its three branches in Jordan — Jabal Amman, Downtown Amman and Mahatta.

Fahed Faneek, an economic analyst and newspaper columnist, and Abdullah Malki, manager of the Association of Banks in Jordan, also agreed with the assessment that no significant loss was in the pipeline for Jordanians as a result of the bank's collapse.

(Continued on page 5)

Disguised Israelis kill Palestinian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Undercover Israeli soldiers in a car shot dead a Palestinian and wounded his companion in Artas village near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank Friday night, Palestinian sources said Saturday.

Artas residents said the disguised soldiers, in a car with blue number plates of the type issued to West Bank Palestinians, shot dead Mazan Ahmad Musa Sabri, 20, late Friday night.

His companion, Mohammad Daameh Al Dirabani, 23, was shot and wounded, they added. The Palestinians were walking to their car when the other car came by and the soldiers opened fire, they said.

The two men were neither in collaboration with the Israeli authorities nor activists in the 42-month-long Palestinian uprising, the residents added.

Israel Radio said Mr. Sabri's body was snatched from a local hospital but the army recovered it and sent it for autopsy after imposing a curfew on Artas.

Since the uprising erupted in 1987 Israelis have killed 809 Palestinians, according to a Reuters count.

The army acknowledged for the first time last month that it used undercover units to fight the revolt. The practice, denied for years, was well-known to Palestinians, who are ever alert for strange vehicles in their villages.

prove army morale and deter activists in the occupied territories, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Eshed Barak said.

In the West Bank city of Nabulus on Saturday Israeli troops fired teargas to disperse women who tried to march through the city to protest against conditions for more than 9,000 Palestinians held in Israel's prisons, Palestinian sources said.

Some 250 Palestinians in Nafha prison in southern Israel have been on hunger strike, taking only water and salt, since June 23 to protest at prison conditions.

Palestinian nationalist leader Radwan Abu Ayash asked the U.N. Security Council Thursday to intervene on the prisoners' behalf.

Frustration

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip reacted to the weakening of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) military presence in South Lebanon with frustration and discouragement.

"I only see darkness and only darkness. There is no light at the end of the tunnel," said Saeed Kanaan, a West Bank businessman.

He said the latest disappointment was an outgrowth of the Gulf war, which brought new criticism to the PLO for its support of Iraq.

"It is a setback we all expected after the Gulf war," he told the AP in a telephone interview.

Yugoslav strife turns worse

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (Agencies) — Federal and Slovenian leaders ended initial negotiations Saturday undecided on who controls the breakaway republic's borders.

Meanwhile, ethnic violence continued in Croatia, the other independence-seeking republic. Leaders there warned of possible attack by federal forces to separate feuding Serbs and Croats, and the hardline Serbian leader said he could mobilise a large army to "pressure peace."

Slovenian officials said new talks were planned to try to compromise on federal demands that the republic give up control of its border posts by noon Sunday. But they did not say when the two sides would meet again.

Stipe Mesic, chairman of Yugoslavia's collective presidency, stressed that the central leadership has no plans to use the army to enforce the deadline. But concerns remained that the army would act independently of the national politicians.

Mr. Mesic said talks with a European Community (EC) delegation due in Yugoslavia Sunday "could provide the only lasting peaceful solutions to the crisis."

Israel's religious wars grow noisier and uglier

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Israel's religious wars have grown noisier and uglier.

Last month, a rabbi accused the kibbutz movement of having waged a campaign 40 years ago to stamp the Judaism out of new immigrants. Last Sunday, someone committed a shocking insult to Jewish sensibilities by dumping a pig's head at a synagogue gate.

The two incidents could be regarded as marginal: A fuss about old errors and a deed widely denounced as beyond any civilized Israeli norm.

Together, however, they have escalated the perennial conflict between Israel's secular majority and the Haredim — the more than 200,000 strictly orthodox Jews whose parties are the kingmakers of Israeli politics.

They also reflect a shift in the Israeli power structure over the past 15 years.

Political clout has drawn the Haredim out of their traditionally closed world and into the spotlight. The kibbutzes, the collective farm movement once revered as the epitome of Zionism, are on the defensive, having to answer for deeds and misdeeds committed at the dawn of Israeli statehood.

Tensions between the religious and secular probably will rise with changes in population. Religious parties are trying to enroll 15,000 new Ethiopian immigrants, and complain that the 280,000 Soviet Jews who have arrived in the past two years are overwhelmingly secular.

Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, immigration minister and a leading figure among the bearded, black-robed Haredim, made the claim about kibbutzes on television.

In Israel's early years, he said, Asian and North African immigrants housed on the

farms were coerced into abandoning ancient Jewish rituals and embracing the ideals of Marxist collectivism.

Nerves were particularly jangled by Mr. Peretz's use of the word "shemad," meaning the destruction of a person's religious faith.

The secular public was outraged. Large anti-religious demonstrations were held. Acrimonious debate filled parliament and the media.

No one denied such things happened in the early years, such as making men cut off their traditional side curls.

"There were a lot of attempts to win the minds and souls of immigrants of various kinds and convert them into supporters and believers," said Peter Medding, a political scientist at Hebrew University.

Other leaders of the Haredim rushed to defend Mr. Peretz. Secular opponents accused him of capitalising on old, isolated incidents to advance his standing among orthodox voters.

Three weeks later, the pig's head was found outside a synagogue in Bnei Brak, an orthodox suburb of Tel Aviv, with a note bearing a secular slogan.

Secular and orthodox Israelis united in denunciation, but while rabbis called it anti-Semitism, some secular politicians blamed the Haredim, saying they had pushed the non-religious public too far.

They cited attempts by religious parties to force Jewish law on an unwilling populace, the exemption of seminary students from military service and large sums of taxpayer money the Haredim have exacted as the price of supporting governments.

"To force on us an alien way of life... through cynical political extortion, is pigstiness — your pigstiness," left-wing legislator Yossi Sarid said in a parliamentary debate on the

pig's-head incident.

Rabbi Moshe Zeev Feldman of the ultra-orthodox party Agudat Israel countered: "Everything connected in any way to our people, our law, the tradition of Israel, immediately meets with hatred, contempt and scorn."

Some Israelis in both camps say mutual ignorance is responsible.

Haredim see secular Israel as a parody of the gentle world. To secular Israelis, the Haredim are simply transplanting their forefathers' East European ghettoes into Israel.

"There is a consistent attempt to wall off the outside world," Mr. Medding said. "The modern world threatens the Haredim and the way they cope with it is by completely cutting themselves off from it."

Jews commanded by God to enforce Jewish law find little merit in the secular argument for live-and-let-live pluralism.

The religious argument — that prayer and Bible study are as important for Israel's welfare as military service — carries equally little weight among Israelis who spend three years in the army and up to 50 days a year on reserve duty.

In April, on Israel's memorial day, television showed Haredim casually going about their business while sirens sounded for Israelis to stand at attention and honour the war dead.

Angry secular Jews paid little heed to the religious contention that sirens and standing at attention are gentile customs, that Haredim remember the war dead in prayer and fasting.

"There is a lack of communication," Yerahmiel Boyer, mayor of Bnei Brak, said on Israel Radio. "There's no willingness to listen to the other side."



Muammar Qadhafi

Qadhafi scoffs at Britain

NICOSIA (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said in a radio broadcast Friday his country does not need relations with Britain, and denied what he called "insulting" accusations about involvement in the Pan Am airplane explosion.

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, monitored in Nicosia, Colonel Qadhafi was asked about recent accusations from London that Libya was connected to the explosion of the plane en route to New York just before Christmas 1989.

"If they had carried out investigations on the Pan American incident they could have come out with serious results, but they did not come out with any result and Libya has nothing to do with the Pan American incident," Col. Qadhafi said.

"Every now and then, the U.K. accuses Libya of being responsible for the crash. It also accuses Syria sometimes of terrorism."

He said: "Britain is the loser in this fight and it is Britain who took the initiative of reinitiating the dialogue with Libya. We agreed on starting the dialogue and improving relations. Instead of them being positive about it, they start insulting Libya again. In any case, Libya doesn't need relations with Britain."

On other issues, Col. Qadhafi said it was necessary to hold an extraordinary Arab summit to "reunify Arab ranks" after the Gulf war, criticised fighting between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Lebanese army, and said Kuwait's preference for American troops means "there is no security in the Gulf."

"Iraq is not a problem anymore. I'm sure that Iraq will take part in any summit," Col. Qadhafi said. "There is no real problem in relations between Egypt and the Palestinians."

He criticised fighting between the Lebanese army and the PLO, which ended Thursday with an agreement that PLO fighters would move their heaviest weapons out of Lebanon and confine themselves to refugee camps.

"Libya has contributed to the armament of the Lebanese army and I don't think Libya has contributed in attacking the Palestinians," Col. Qadhafi said. "It contributed in reinstating the Lebanese legality. The Lebanese, the Palestinians and the Syrians should have sat together and defined their positions. Why resort to arms? I consider it a fight between Arab brothers."

Asked about his discussions with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on creating security structures in the Gulf, he answered:

"There are no security arrangements in the Gulf and nothing clear on this matter. There was an idea about the Arab force which took part in the liberation of Kuwait replacing foreign troops, but it seems Kuwait can't do it."

Libya and Burkina Faso have backed Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) since the start of the civil war in Liberia in December 1989.

Destruction of Iraqi missiles continuing

BAGHDAD (AP) — With a final explosion Saturday, a U.N. team planned to end a destructive week spent watching Iraqis bulldoze ballistic missiles into scrap and slice launchers with welding torches.

The last task of blowing up 19 Scud and Al Hussein missile warheads at Habbaniyah air base 90 kilometres west of Baghdad was to be completed by Midday Saturday, the team leader, U.S. army Colonel Douglas Englund said Friday.

The 21-man multinational team, which includes four Americans and three Soviets, has already supervised destruction of 61 missiles, 10 mobile launchers, two fixed launchers, nine liquid-fuel transporters and eight missile transport vehicles, Col. Englund said.

All were identified by Iraq under the April 3 U.N. ceasefire resolution ending the Gulf war. The agreement obliges Iraq to destroy all its missiles, nuclear and chemical weapons.

Towards the end of the month, another U.N. team headed by Col. Englund will finish the task of eliminating Iraq's missile capability when it travels to western Iraq to inspect 34 fixed launch sites and eight supporting factories, he said.

Most of the nearly 30 sites were destroyed by allied air attacks, Col. Englund said. The remainder will be plowed into the ground.

Also, 30 chemical warheads are to be destroyed by a separate U.N. inspection team.

In contrast to U.N. nuclear inspectors, who have encountered resistance from Iraqi authorities, the ballistic team has met with full cooperation, Col. Englund said in an interview at his Baghdad hotel.

"I'm personally very impressed

with how much they've been able to do in five days," said Col. Englund. "They probably needed one in the win column. They destroyed what they said they were going to destroy... they really didn't have alternative."

Some Iraqi officers muttered regrets about the demolition of hundreds of millions of dollars in equipment they had guarded with their lives, team members said. Col. Englund and other team members said they observed nothing to indicate Iraq was hiding missiles. Some reports have indicated Iraq secretly possessed from 100 to 700.

Col. Englund said allied attacks on the missile sites had been devastating. But one team member, Lt. Col. Wolfgang Butler of the German air force, said, "right now we really don't know" if there are more missiles.

The dismantling of the missile sites occurred at three bases around Baghdad where temperatures that soar to 50 degrees Centigrade.

Iraq has denied having a nuclear weapons or biological weapons programme. In April, Baghdad provided a list of over 11,000 chemical weapons that survived the Gulf war, along with 52 ballistic missiles.

Baghdad admitted having one regular 320-kilometre-range Scud missile and 51 specially adapted Al Hussein Scuds, with a 640-kilometre range.

Since Tuesday, a team of U.N. demilitarisation experts have been supervising the destruction of 61 missiles, including nine previously undeclared Al Fahd surface-to-air missiles.

By Sunday, the U.N. team plans to have completed the destruction of all the missiles, mobile and fixed launchers, liquid fuel transporters and missile transport vehicles.

Turkey seeks strategic gains from Bush trip

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — President Turgut Ozal hopes a visit by President Bush later this month will finally produce rewards for Turkey's support and sacrifices during the Gulf war.

Turkish officials talk of working out a special relationship along the lines of U.S. ties to Israel or South Korea.

Mr. Bush will arrive from Greece July 20 for a two-day state visit, only the second by a U.S. president to the two quarrelling NATO allies and the first in 32 years. President Dwight D. Eisenhower visited both countries in 1959.

Since then, Turkish-Greek ties have steadily worsened over Aegean disputes and the Cyprus problem, issues on which Mr. Bush is expected to seek progress during his trip.

During the Gulf crisis, Mr. Ozal overruled objections that Turkey could be jeopardising its ties with fellow Islamic states in the region by supporting the U.S.-led coalition.

Ankara blocked Iraq's oil exports, massed troops on the border to pin down Iraqi divisions and permitted U.S. bombers to use a Turkish base.

But despite Mr. Ozal's focus on a public relations windfall, his officials were not satisfied with the returns.

Turkey, which lost pipeline royalties and gave up a big export and construction market in Iraq, has estimated that its total losses are close to \$8 billion.

Washington pressed the Western allies, Japan and the Gulf states to supply aid, but officials here complain that was enough to cover only half of the losses.

Mr. Ozal said Washington tripled import quotas for Turkish textiles, one of the country's leading exports. But officials privately note the measure was nothing

more than a gesture since Turkey was hard-pressed to meet the old quotas.

A U.S.-led allied force has worked in eastern Turkey to protect and repatriate 450,000 Iraqi Kurds who fled to Turkey after a failed rebellion in March.

But looming autonomy for Iraqi Kurds has been an unwelcome by-product for Turkey which fears similar aspirations by its own 12 million Kurds.

Despite U.S. pressure, the European Community is as reluctant as ever to take Turkey in.

A delegation of Pentagon, State Department and White House officials led by U.S. Under-secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz has just ended talks on the "strategic relationship" between the two countries.

Talks included the deployment in Turkey of a Western "residual force" ostensibly to deter a new Iraqi crackdown on Kurds.

They also discussed additions to a bilateral defence accord giving Washington access to electronic surveillance, air and communications bases.

But a foreign ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the new relationship should ensure increased aid, breaking the tradition that guarantees Greece military aid worth 70 per cent of Turkey's.

Congress, however, has rejected administration attempts to abandon that formula.

Asked to define Turkey's goals in more concrete terms, another official said Turkey was seeking ties as close as those between the United States and Israel.

"There is also the example of South Korea, which the United States built up as its window in the Far East with investments, economic and political backing," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Council of Europe to discuss Gulf pollution

ANKARA (R) — Council of Europe ministers will meet in Ankara next week to discuss Gulf pollution from burning oil wells and the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. "The ministers will decide on the launching of a programme to study the effects of the Chernobyl catastrophe on victims' health and to provide help for... those affected both in the Soviet Union and in Turkey," a council statement said. The statement, received Friday, said the Soviet Union had requested the meeting a year ago. It said the ministers would also approve conservation measures for coral in the Gulf, following a request for help from Saudi Arabia. Smoke from the burning Kuwaiti oil wells masks the sea, causing a drop in sea temperature and threatening the coral, the statement said. Turkey and the Soviet Union are both members of the 25-Nation Council of Europe.

Wife of jailed Briton leaves for Iraq

LONDON (R) — The wife of a British businessman jailed in Iraq left London Saturday to visit her husband in his prison cell for the first time in a year. Shirley Richter flew to Jordan and will travel overland from there to Baghdad, where her husband Ian, 45, was jailed for life five years ago on bribery charges. She said at London's Heathrow airport: "Five years is a long time for someone who should not be in prison in the first place. I would say to President Saddam (Hussein) 'Please release him. He has been there a long time and it would be nice if he could come home now.'" Mrs. Richter, who will not know if she is to meet President Saddam Hussein until she arrives in Iraq, will be visiting her husband Monday for the first time since the Gulf war. She said: "during the war, Ian has very depressed. At times there was no water or electricity and very little food. But things have improved since, I understand. I received a letter from Ian two days ago. I believe he is well at the moment although he is struggling in the heat." For her planned meetings with Iraqi officials, Mrs. Richter will be accompanied by Soviet diplomats, who have been handling British affairs in Baghdad since Iraq severed relations with Britain over the Gulf war. Another Briton, Douglas Brand, was freed from an Iraqi prison last month after the intervention of former British Prime Minister Edward Heath.

Japanese turn to minehunting

ABU DHABI (AP) — After detecting and destroying 17 mines in the Gulf waters off Kuwait, four Japanese ships have turned their attention to the more difficult job of minehunting. Minesweeping is the process of detecting mines that have broken from their tethers and are floating at or near the surface. Minehunting is more difficult because it requires locating sophisticated mines hidden in the sea bed, often by using a diver or robot. Members of the team discussed their project on condition they not be named. On Saturday they allowed reporters to see a video tape, prepared by the Japanese maritime self-defence force, showing the detonation of four mines in the Gulf. They said that in at least one instance, Japanese divers discovered a mine with the safety pin still in place, suggesting that whoever planted it did not have the skills necessary to activate it. The tape showed divers going 31 metres underwater to secure one mine. The detonation sent water shooting some 50 metres into the air. "Our ship was five kilometres away and it was a heavy one, yet it started shaking like a paper boat in a small lake," one diver said of the power of the blast. The four Japanese ships that are hunting for mines are two 440-tonne ships commissioned in 1988, Yurishima and Hikoshima, and two 490-tonne ships commissioned in 1989, Awashima and Sakushima.

Israel targets Falashas for AIDS testing

TEL AVIV (AP) — The airlift that brought 14,500 Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) to Israel has increased the country's pool of HIV carriers by nearly 25 per cent, a leading AIDS researcher says.

To prevent the spread of the disease, the health ministry has ordered the testing of all Ethiopians over age nine who arrived during Operation Solomon, the 36-hour airlift carried out in May during the revolution in Ethiopia.

While the number of AIDS victims and HIV carriers remains small in Israel, Dr. Shlomo Maayan noted the sudden jump is significant in a country with a population of 4.0 million.

"It's a huge impact on Israel," he said in a recent interview.

Shlomo Mulla, an Ethiopian immigrant leader, said there was no reason for mandatory testing of Ethiopians because he believed AIDS was not prevalent among them. He said the testing was putting a stigma on the community.

"What is there no AIDS in the Israeli community or in the United States or Europe? To say that just because they come from Africa they have AIDS is terrible," Mr. Mulla said.

Zev Handzel, head of Israel's Association for AIDS Prevention, made similar comments in an interview with the weekly Jerusalem Report. "It's criminal to blame Ethiopian immigrants for any new increase. You are more likely to catch AIDS from an American tourist," he said.

Dr. Maayan said the testing is already creating problems among the mostly uneducated immigrants. Those diagnosed with AIDS have never heard of the disease, he said. Others are confused by blood tests and reluctant to discuss their sexual habits.

"We have brought these people from a medical situation equivalent with the 12th century to the 21st century," said Dr. Avraham Reshef, head of public health services in Israel.

Syrian-Lebanese scuffle disrupts peace concert

BEIRUT (R) — A scuffle between Syrian and Lebanese soldiers disrupted a peace concert held Friday amid the ruins 16 years of civil war in downtown Beirut.

"I spit on such peace," said one woman, fleeing in anger and fear as rifle shots drowned out youthful, singing voices.

Men, women and children, who had been waving Lebanese flags and banners calling for "peace and love" ran away in terror as gunfire echoed through Martyrs' Square, scene of some of the country's heaviest fighting.

"Leave, Leave, Go back home. Don't bother about peace concerts," Lebanese soldiers urged some of the 10,000 civilians who had gathered to celebrate the end of factional fighting that has taken 150,000 lives.

The concert was held a day after Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas agreed to give up their biggest weapons and retreat to their camps in southern Lebanon after a four-day battle with the Lebanese army.

The concert was organised by the voice of Lebanon radio station and the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation television station, both run by the rightist Lebanese Forces militia.

The crowd included Christians and Muslims, some of whom had not ventured to the centre of the capital since 1974.

But half-way through the concert, featuring 54 Christian and Muslim musicians from all over

the country, a scuffle broke out.

It started when Lebanese plainclothes security forces stopped a Syrian soldier carrying hand grenades and a machinegun from mingling with the crowds.

The Syrians, with 40,000 troops in Lebanon, are the main power brokers.

"No weapons are allowed here. We're singing for peace," said a security man.

The Syrian soldier insisted on being allowed in, arguing that Mona Hrawi, wife of the president, was attending the concert guarded by armed soldiers. The Syrian then fired his rifle into the air.

As Lebanese soldiers beat the soldier up, three friends who were with him ran to bring reinforcements.

A full-scale clash was prevented. But the incident made people hurry back home with spirits lowered and doubts raised that the peace the government of President Elias Hrawi has lately achieved would hold.

Despite the confusion and the panic, the singers continued for a while, but ended the concert two hours early.

Their last number was a French song they had composed for the occasion:

"Peace, peace, peace is coming with love."

"Let's rise to sing and to rewrite history."

Among those who saw the concert through to the end was British Ambassador David Tatham, who stayed in his front row seat.

Libyan arms reportedly captured in Liberia

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Sierra Leone President Joseph Momoh said Saturday his army, battling an invasion from neighbouring Liberia, had captured arms made in Libya.

Mr. Momoh, in Nigeria's future capital of Abuja for a summit of the 16-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), told Reuters that fighters from Burkina Faso and Liberia had also been taken prisoner.

"We captured ammunition shells and boxes clearly marked government of Libya," he said in an interview.

He added that people from Burkina Faso and Liberia as well as Sierra Leonean dissidents had been among the rebels taken captive since the invasion began in March.

Sierra Leone and Nigeria accuse Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor of mounting the cross-border attack from territory he controls.

Mr. Taylor denies any involvement, saying anti-Momoh Sierra Leoneans are responsible.

Libya and Burkina Faso have backed Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) since the start of the civil war in Liberia in December 1989.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 771212
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 771212
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Jordan Television 771111
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Basim Al Qaddoumi 646024
Dr. Khalil Al Jubali 740740
Dr. Abdul Hakeem Khawaja 791954
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637025
Nairoba pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammed Taani (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy 273825

ZARQA:
Dr. Hussein Mahmoud (—)
Khalaf pharmacy 983417

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

IBU SINA HOSPITAL (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Rm Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6443816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malika, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6617114
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
Iskhan, Al-Muhajir 777012
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Anhi, Abdali 6641646
Iskhan, Al-Muhajir 777012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7711126
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 674155
Amal Hospital 6722050
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa Private Hospital (09)980560

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
16:30 Agaba (RJ)
16:30 Jeddah (RJ)
16:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
19:10 Paris, Geneva (RJ)
19:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
20:30 London, Brussels (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:40 Tripoli (LN)
18:30 Larnaca (CY)
20:35 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 Agaba (RJ)
18:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
19:00 Dhahran (RJ)
21:00 Riyadh (RJ)
21:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:30 Damascus (RJ)
21:30 Bangkok, Singapore (RJ)
22:30 Jeddah, Sanaa (RJ)
22:45 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:25 Rome (AZ)
13:40 Tripoli (LN)
19:15 Larnaca (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.	
Apple	700 / 360
Apricots	850 / 750
Banana	500 / 450
Banana (Mukammal)	450 / 400

Jordan remembers King Talal on 20th anniversary of his death

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today marks the 20th anniversary of the death of King Talal, Ben Abdullah, father of His Majesty King Hussein and the eldest son of the late King Abdullah, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

King Talal was installed king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Sept. 6, 1951 and worked to achieve the objectives of the Arab Revolt. He started his reign by introducing reforms in the national constitution in a bid to develop the political life in



Jordan. Illness prevented him from pursuing his goal. He handed the standard to King Hussein on Aug. 11, 1952.

King Talal was born in Mecca in 1909 and received military training at Sandhurst College in Britain. He was the first Jordanian army officer to graduate from that college in 1939.

King Talal took part in the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 when he fought alongside the Jordanian Armed Forces in defence of the Arab land and Palestine.

Jordan marks International Cooperative Day with display

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Saturday marked International Cooperative Day by displaying various products by 509 Jordanian cooperative societies at the International Fair Centre at Marj Al Hamam, west of here.

Deputy Prime Minister and transport Minister Ali Subeihat stood in for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening ceremony which was attended by officials and businessmen as well as representatives of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) which organised the fair.

Items and commodities on display, from various societies in different parts of Jordan, included agricultural tools and equipment, embroidery and knitted wear, food supplies, clothes, ornaments, vegetables and fruits as well as dairy products.

JCO Director General Jamal

Lebdour who attended the opening ceremony told the Jordan News Agency Petra, that the cooperative movement in the Kingdom was actively contributing towards the Kingdom's socio-economic development.

The country has 164 cooperative societies which produce vegetables and fruits and the JCO supervises the production of improved grain in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Lebdour said.

He said that the cooperative societies in Jordan produced more than 50 per cent of the local market's needs of poultry and meat, 90 per cent of table eggs, 45 per cent of hatching eggs, 80 per cent of fresh milk and 90 per cent of table salt.

He said that the JCO was instrumental in preventing the continued movement of people from rural to urban regions by

creating job opportunities in rural and remote regions of Jordan.

The JCO Mr. Lebdour added, is also helping Jordan produce more food, ensure stability for rural communities and raise their standard of living.

Jordan is one of the 77 members of the Geneva-based International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) which was established in 1895 to coordinate efforts by various world cooperatives, promote the cooperative movement worldwide and encourage socio-economic development.

The ICA aims at linking individual means and affiliated organisations in the pursuit of cooperative goals. These cover agriculture, banking, fisheries, consumer affairs, wholesale distribution, housing, insurance, women's participation and industrial fields.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday receives the wife of the visiting Chinese Prime Minister, Mrs. Zhu Lin (Petra photo)

Queen receives wives of Chinese delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday received at Al Ma'wa Palace Mrs. Zhu Lin, wife of the Chinese prime minister and Mrs. Zhou Hanqiong, wife of the Chinese foreign minister, currently on a visit to Jordan.

Her Majesty discussed with the Chinese delegation various venues of cooperation between the concerned bodies in China and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) as means to promote bilateral relations between the two countries.

The discussions focused on ways the NHF can benefit from the expertise and technical means that the concerned authorities in China can offer, such as Chinese-made musical instruments for the National Music Conservatory, special packaging machines for the production of honey and jam packages currently being pro-

duced by the Women and Development Project in Jordan, for use in hotels and air flights.

The NHF Puppet Theatre is to benefit from the highly-reputed Chinese puppet theatre through direct interaction with Chinese experts and by means of guide books and various illustration methods.

Queen Noor also discussed with the Chinese guests ways in which China can help in the execution of a small-scale textile mill, which is to be established under the auspices of the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, an affiliate of NHF.

Attending the meeting were the wives of the Jordanian prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, the wife of the Chinese ambassador to Jordan and the wife of Jordan's ambassador to China.



PRINCESS ALIA AL FAISAL INAUGURATES EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal Saturday opened at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel an exhibition of traditional embroidery by women of poor districts of the capital. On display for 10 days are samples of embroidered women dresses, necklaces, silver and other jewellery. A group of invited guests attended the opening ceremony.

Seminar tackles agricultural policies

AMMAN (Petra) — The government plans to give momentum to the agricultural sector in Jordan and to deal with the points of weakness and gaps by creating a proper and convenient climate for farmers, consumers and investors, Minister of Agriculture Subhi Al Qasem said Saturday.

"The government intends to stimulate the role of agriculture in the national economy and raise the standard of agricultural production," said the minister in the opening address of a seminar on agricultural policies in Jordan.

The seminar is one in a series of meetings in preparation for a general agricultural conference due to be held in Amman in September.

Three working papers prepared by Jordanian agricultural experts were reviewed at the seminar attended by representatives of the private and public sectors.

The first paper, prepared by

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Sami Al Sunnaa, dealt with agricultural development — objectives and constraints.

The paper covered such questions as agricultural resources, the role of agriculture in the national economy and its role in providing food for the inhabitants together with obstacles that impede production.

The second paper, by Rima Huneidi, dealt with agricultural development and the external effects on the national agricultural sector in the second half of the 1980s. The paper reviewed exports and the decline in prices of agricultural products.

The third paper, by Dr. Safwan Touqan and Dr. Nader Marian, tackled the subject of demand and supply of agricultural products by the year 2000. The paper dealt with local demand of food supplies, the gap between food production and consumption and predictions for the coming years.

Two new border posts to be built to facilitate passage for travellers

Ministries work together to promote tourism industry

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministries of public works and housing and tourism and antiquities are cooperating in providing facilities that can contribute towards the development of the tourism industry in Jordan.

Matters related to the opening of roads, resthouses and the Syrian-Jordanian and Iraqi-Jordanian border posts were discussed at a meeting between Minister of Public Works Saad Hayel Esrou and Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabari.

The meeting, which was attended by senior aides on both sides, discussed facilities that should be made available, like roads and installations at the border posts.

The Ministry of Public Works is setting up a new border post at Turbeel, near the Iraqi border, and has already awarded a contract to a local firm to set up the Jaber border post near the Syrian border.

The two ministers said their departments would seek to ensure further convenience to travellers and tourists through these two vital projects where passenger lounges, parking lots and other basic utilities will be provided.

The minister of Public Works said that work would be speeded up on the Iraqi-Jordanian border post so that it can be completed in 60 days, as called for under the

terms of the contract. The total cost of the new border post at Turbeel is estimated at JD 2.5 million.

The Ministry of Public Works last month awarded a contract worth JD 8 million to a local firm for the construction of the new border post near the Syrian border. Work on the project is expected to last 1,000 days.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the two ministers examined the prospect of increasing the number of resthouses along the highways in Jordan and of boosting Civil Defence Department (CDD) services to provide first aid for the benefit of all travellers and tourists visiting the country.

Control over government expenditure saves JD 1.2m

AMMAN (Petra) — By strictly controlling the way government funds are being handled, the Central Audit Bureau has succeeded in saving JD 1,247,501 in the first five months of 1991, according to the bureau's Director Hashem Al Dabbas.

The bureau maintains permanent auditors at various government departments and institutions in order to control government spending and to ensure that these departments abide by regulations issued by the Ministry of Finance and the Budget Department. Dr. Dabbas said in a statement Friday.

He said that his team of offi-

cial was authorised to stop any procedure involving spending of government funds if they were not included in the fiscal budget for the year.

"Control covers purchases of various items for the departments, disbursements of any money and the proper spending of funds in accordance with the budget that was approved by the government and the Lower House of Parliament," Dr. Dabbas said.

He said that control also covered spending on various development projects which are being implemented by government institutions as approved by

the government's budget.

"The auditors and other officials at the Central Audit Bureau receive regular financial reports from various institutions to keep track of their financial situation," Dr. Dabbas added.

He said that the savings came from fines imposed on contractors failing to meet the projects deadline or to less spending due to original wrong assessments of required sums.

Dr. Dabbas said the savings were due to strict vigilance and close follow up of financial spending on the part of the bureau's staff.

Cerebral Palsy Foundation presents programme of action

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) has just announced its programme for this year, to be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the foundation's honorary president and said that the programme, was designed to give impetus to the foundation's drive to raise funds for the treatment of the growing number of cerebral palsy cases in the Kingdom.

CPF President Fakhri Bilbeisi said in a statement that the programme, which would be implemented in October, entails the following:

— Cultural and informational activities that include the distribution of leaflets and posters on cerebral palsy and means of handling cerebral palsy cases among children.

— A fund-raising campaign using closed boxes which will be carried

in various regions of the Kingdom by students from government and private schools, community colleges and universities. Individual citizens and organisations will be requested to make contributions to help the CPF carry out its humanitarian programme.

— Organising a charity march on Friday, October 4, 1991, starting from the foundation offices and ending at Kan Zaman restaurant, south east of here.

— the CPF annually organises such activities designed to help raise funds for the treatment of children with cerebral palsy conditions.

Official statistics in Jordan show that the country has at least 10,000 cerebral palsy cases but, according to Mr. Bilbeisi, the CPF's five centres in the country have been providing assistance to only 5,500 of them.

"The CPF, established in 1977, has succeeded so far to open five centres in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Aqaba and Salt. The centres provide advice and information to families who have cerebral palsy cases and therapy and treatment without any charge," Mr. Bilbeisi said.

"The younger the child is sent to the centre for therapy, the greater his or her chances are for complete cure," he said.

According to a PCF leaflet, palsy is related to the inability of a child to use his muscles properly, so his mobility is impeded, and cerebral means that the cause is the affected brain (central nervous system).

Injury can happen during pregnancy, at delivery or after birth, especially during the critical postnatal month, the leaflet mentions.

West Bank tawjihi exams suspended

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has suspended the tawjihi examination session in the occupied West Bank schools and said that the English language examination, and all those that came after it, will be considered null and void.

The decision was taken in view of reports from the occupied territories to the effect that the examination session was not proceeding as planned, according to a statement issued by the ministry here Saturday.

The decision to stop the examination session, it said, was made in coordination with the concerned Palestinian authorities and announced by Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat.

The statement said, however, that the examination could be resumed once a suitable educational climate has been ensured so as to guarantee a sound course of examination.

The tawjihi examination for Jordan was held last month and, according to ministry sources, the results will be out by the end of July.

Abbadi says Jordan does not have a drug addiction problem

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan does not have a drug addiction problem, does not produce any types of drugs and has no laboratories to process narcotics, according to Minister of Health Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Addressing the opening session of a "scientific day," organised by the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the minister said that the problem of drugs was now plaguing countries world-wide and was having adverse effects on individuals and whole societies.

"The scientific day has been organised for the purpose of

focusing public attention on the dangers of drugs and to spread public awareness on the need to combat drug addiction and trafficking by all means," the minister said.

Addressing the opening session was JPA President Husam Musmar who said that there was no drug addiction problem in Jordan, but Jordan is considered as a transit area for drug trafficking between consumer and producer countries.

Mr. Musmar paid tribute to the continued efforts of the Public Security Department (PSD) and the vigilance of the public, which he said, continually help abort

drug trafficking operations.

Head of the Pharmacy Department at the Health Ministry Nayef Hamameh reviewed his department's efforts in controlling all medicines imported by Jordan and other matters related to drugs and narcotics.

The participants held three working sessions dealing with drugs in Jordan, Arab and international cooperation in combatting the drugs and the classification of various drugs and their mental effects.

The meeting also dealt with methods of rehabilitating drug addicts and legal issues related to drug addiction.

Question mark over Gazans

(Continued from page 1)

City. Mr. Mulhem, a lawyer by profession who practised in the emirate, said exit formalities for expatriates "are a lengthy process, involving personal questioning (by the Kuwaiti authorities) and could take months before individual exit permissions are issued."

Mr. Mulhem estimated that around 10 per cent of the Jordanian passport holders left in Kuwait were residents of the Israeli-occupied West Bank who are issued two-year Jordanian passports to serve as travel and identity documents without any citizenship rights or obligations in the kingdom.

While holders of Jordanian passports and Lebanese documents have the option of returning to Jordan and Lebanon, the Gazans

stranded in Kuwait face a major problem: Egypt has imposed a very tight screening system to control the entry of Gazans to its territory despite the fact that they possess Egyptian-issued documents.

In most cases, the system means protracted processes and possible outright refusal to allow entry.

Egyptian authorities deny that they are refusing to accept Gazans and blame bureaucracy for the delay.

"We are seeking (Jordanian) government approval to allow the holders of Egyptian documents to enter Jordan," Mr. Mulhem said. "We have requested a meeting with the prime minister and we will be raising the issue during the meeting."

"We don't think all the 23,000 of the Gazans will come to Jordan," he said

without elaboration.

Other sources said many of the Gazans left in Kuwait have relatives and friends in Syria and Damascus could be one of their destinations. But it is not clear yet whether Syria would accept them.

No Jordanian official was immediately available for comment on the thorny issue of Gazans in Kuwait, which surfaced at the height of the expatriate exodus from Kuwait and Iraq through Jordan following the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of the emirate.

A senior official said at that time that Jordan could not allow blanket entry to "anyone without firm assurances that he or she will leave the Kingdom within a reasonable period of time."

Several hundred Gazans holding Egyptian documents who obtained special permission from Cairo passed through Jordan during the Gulf crisis.

Jordanian artist depicts Palestinian heritage

By Maha Adad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Alia Art Gallery near the first circle is currently displaying art works of the Jordanian artist Maher Al Shuaibi in its exhibition hall.

The paintings displayed are entirely made of poster colours on paper and have Palestine-related subjects, with figures wearing the traditional embroidered dresses dominating the bulk of the exhibition.

According to the artist, he chose these subjects because this exhibition is in commemoration of the day of the Palestinian heritage, which was held on July 1, the same day the exhibition was opened.

"Palestinian embroidery seemed to be the most appropriate to paint for this exhibition," Mr. Al Shuaibi said.

"In some paintings I do not give any attention to the ex-

pressions and I emphasise the patterns on the dresses," he said pointing to one work where only a woman's figure was drawn, with the head absent from the frame. The dress embroidery is painted with intricate detail using the zinc etching technique on paper.

A certain design is etched on a zinc sheet, using acids, and then the etched design is printed on paper of varying thickness depending on the type of the imprint desired.

But Mr. Al Shuaibi's paintings also care to represent expressions.

In one painting, the expression of a young boy is unforgettable with its depth and amount of feeling it carries. The boy, who is close to tears, has a very sad expression as he leans against a fence of barbed wire and gives no signs of being bothered by the barbs physically. His pain is both mental and emotional.

In another of his works, a child is standing while all that is behind him has been devoured by fire. The child seems to be in shock and it is as though he is considering going back and throwing himself into the flames as all that he cares for has burned to cinders.

In yet another of the paintings, a man is lighting a cigarette using a glowing piece of coal. There is an expression of indifference as he holds the piece of coal in a pair of tongs. Using coal seems to be a natural thing with the man.

Also part of the exhibition are poster-like pieces that carry a message about Palestine. The common factor in all these "posters" is that they are painted with optimistic, bright colours that are reflective of hope.

The exhibition will last until July 8.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King visits Armed Forces General Command

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, visited Saturday the Armed Forces General Command where he was received by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants and the inspector general. King Hussein had a meeting with Gen. Abu Taleb and discussed issues of concern to the Jordanian Armed Forces. Part of the meeting was attended by the chief of staff's assistants and the inspector general.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Shoukni, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rifqi Al Razzan at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Maher Al Shuaibi at Alia Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Najwa Annab at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Embroidery exhibition at Jordan Intercontinental Hotel

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- 1- The Doors.
- 2- The hardway.
- 3- Run.
- 4- Sometimes they comeback.
- 5- Night of the Hunter.
- 6- Fever.
- 7- Haunted.
- 8- Nothing but trouble.
- 9- Don't tell her I am here.
- 10- Hudson Hawk.

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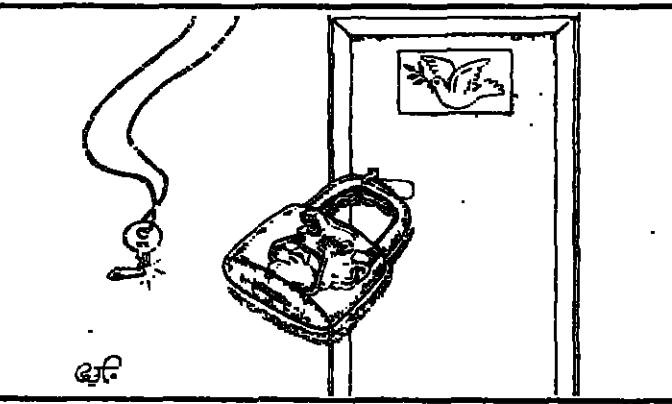
Champion of Third World rights

THE VISIT of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng to Jordan signifies the Asian giant's interest in assuming a leading role in the affairs of the Middle East in particular and Third World affairs in general. Despite Western rhetoric about China's political and human rights record, the Chinese have always defended and championed Third World causes. At the U.N. General Assembly and in the Security Council, China has always led Third World struggle against super-power hegemony, against trade imbalances and Western exploitation of the South's resources. China itself has embarked on socio-political and economic process of reform that resulted in improvements in its trade balance. It has freed its economy and started to experiment with political reform. The Chinese have also contributed towards world's stability and peace. During the Gulf crisis the Chinese government stood for the defence of international legitimacy, but abstained from voting for the use of force to force Iraq out of Kuwait and instead pursued an active diplomacy aiming at averting the war. While the West supplies its friends with all sorts of weapon systems, it criticises China for selling arms to its friends. If other countries, especially the Europeans, should cower under U.S. pressure to refrain from supplying Middle Eastern countries with arms — while Israel is being stuffed with American weapons — the Arab friends of China expect it to continue to supply them with their defensive needs of weaponry.

As far as the Arabs are concerned, China is a great friend with an impressive record in support of Arab causes, especially the Palestine issue. They are potential fair trade partners and represent a huge market. At the moment in history, when the West, especially the U.S., tries to impose its will and "new order" on world nations, China's principled stand should be appreciated and encouraged. With the demise of the Soviet-led Eastern bloc, the Third World has only China to defend its interests.

In Jordan we are proud to be friends of such a great nation.

His Majesty King Hussein said yesterday he hoped that China's role should be concentrated on defending the "principles and values... and issues with the same standard... for a better future for humanity." This is what we in Jordan hope that all superpowers and leading nations should be doing, playing a fair game with the nation's of the South. And since China itself is leading the march of Third World development and struggle for better life and a better future for mankind, we look forward for increased cooperation and coordination with our Chinese friends.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily commented on a statement by the Belgian foreign minister in which he stated that Israel was responsible for the delay in reaching a settlement to the Middle East problem, and called on the international community to give impetus to new initiatives for peace. The paper said that the statement reflects the European Community's impatience with Israel which has been committing inhuman practices and procrastinating and stalling regarding the peace process. But the paper said expression of impatience can by no means give any life to the peace process and such statements can do nothing to force Israel to give up occupied land. What can really matter and persuade the Israelis to re-examine their position is a solid European stand and a clearcut statement from the community that further delays by Israel in the Middle East question can adversely affect Israel's relations with Europe, noted the paper. No one can deny that Europe's role in the peace-making process is essential, and therefore the Europeans should take action now to deter further Israeli atrocities and put an end to occupation of Arab lands, the paper continued. It said that the Belgian foreign minister's statement should be followed by a practical step in the right direction, a step which would force Israel to recognise U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and accept the implementation of the international legitimacy.

Al Dustour commented on the situation in the south of Lebanon between the Lebanese government and the PLO and said that the agreement rules out any Palestinian resistance to Israel's presence in the south. But at the same time this agreement, the paper noted, has removed any excuse for Israel to remain in the region because the Lebanese legitimate rule is now spreading there. The paper said that Israel had found an excuse of staying in Lebanon in the past decade, and refused to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, ordering it to give up the occupied territory. Now that excuse no more exists there can be no reason for Israel to keep its troops or ignore U.N. resolutions. Should Israel maintain a presence in southern Lebanon it would give evidence to its expansionist aims designed to steal water and other natural wealth in the southern region of Lebanon and expand its northern borders, the paper noted. The Lebanese government has lately stated that Europe and America have both given assurance that they would put pressure on Israel to implement Resolution 425; and it remains to be seen whether this will ever materialise.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Negative, positive indicators of economy

By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

(1)
JORDAN since the eruption of the Gulf crisis in August 1990, has no development plan, nor an economic adjustment programme. The International Monetary Fund's delegation that visited last May was here for the usual annual consultation with member states. However, the IMF experts are reportedly scheduled to call again next September, to assist Jordanian planners in formulating a new economic adjustment programme. It is expected that the new programme will extend over seven years, 1992-1998. This long period has been dictated by the IMF prediction that the balance of services may not show in the medium-term future the usual surpluses of the past, because export of services will take longer to recover, if at all.

(2)
The new government, like the previous one, is not overly eager to go back to adjustment policies and measures. The creditors, on the other hand, started to realise that instead of squeezing Jordan for servicing its debts, relief should be considered more seriously, provided of course that Jordan takes all necessary steps to reform its economy.

THE cost of living index during May 1991 stood at 166.7 against 153.9 during the same month of 1990. (1986 = 100). Thus, the rate of consumer inflation during the past twelve months was in the order of 8.3 per cent, the lowest annual inflation rate registered

since 1968, according to figures compiled by the Department of Statistics.

The success in bringing inflation under control, after reaching 26 per cent in 1989, and 16 per cent in 1990, is one of the most remarkable achievements of the government financial and monetary policies. No one thought that relative stability of the exchange rate and domestic prices could be recovered so soon.

(3)
THE Jordanian balance of payments for 1990 is expected to post a surplus of \$342 million if calculated on cash basis. That was the net improvement in the foreign reserves of the banking system in gold and foreign exchange. However, taking into account foreign debt service, whether paid or suspended, the bottom line in the balance of payments will be reversed into a deficit of \$636 million, a fact that reflects the crucial effect of debt service.

The current account in the balance of payments showed a deficit of \$707 million, but ignoring capitalised interest and interest which became due but was not paid.

The balance of payment in 1990 was rather healthy due to three factors: Iraqi oil, foreign aid, and partial suspension of debt service, but will those three factors continue to operate in 1992 and beyond?

(4)
JORDAN's outstanding foreign debt is currently in the neigh-

bourhood of \$3 billion. The principal and interest due are way beyond the capacity of the economy to cope with. This situation calls for a radical solution which should be reached amicably with the creditors, especially when Jordan's debt was selling in the secondary market last March at 30 cents to the dollar, which is the market's judgment of Jordan's capacity to pay.

It is worth noting that principal and interest amounts, which will become due during the few coming years exceed 100 per cent of the commodity export proceeds. They make more than 35 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), as shown in the following table in millions of dollars.

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
1991	900	620	1520
1992	757	585	1342
1993	871	533	1404
1994	899	474	1373

The decline in interest each year is based on the theoretical assumption that the principal due in the previous year would be paid, and that there was no new borrowing. But such assumptions are obviously not realistic.

Shouldn't one do what one preaches?

By Mariam M. Shabin

NOW that the ceasefire between Iraq and the United States once again hangs in the balance, many people wonder how and if Baghdad will continue to dodge attempts to draw it into another round of fighting or to at least give America a pretext to launch some more surgical strikes.

What is amazing about the post-war tactics of the U.S. and the so called international allies that they have as a legal back-up team, is how superficially and hypocritically they deal with every subject they introduce as a bargaining chip with the government in Baghdad.

Let's start with the Kurds. The Kurdish issue has never been broached by neither of the superpowers nor by the British government. Not only were it the allies of the 1945 "victory" who were responsible for the original division of the areas inhabited by the Kurdish tribes (which actually took place in the twenties) but they also offered no compensation whatsoever to the people whose national tragedy they created.

On the contrary, the U.S. and the U.K. governments have consistently supported the very regimes in Iran, Iraq and Turkey that brutally oppressed any thought of self-determination, autonomy or

even cultural independence amongst the Kurds.

Only on occasion, and for no doubt strategic interests, did the U.S. under the leadership of President Richard Nixon in 1973, support the Kurds in northern Iraq against the government in Baghdad only to drop them like hot potatoes when it became inconvenient. Iraq, of course, was only one of three countries in which large numbers of Kurds were living. Iran and Turkey have never really been reprimanded for their barbarian way of dealing with their minority populations, which included Kurds.

To make a long story short, it can be noticed that even among academicians and so-called intellectuals and journalists there has been very little and certainly no serious discussion of the Kurdish issue. As such only the rather limited issue of "what happened in northern Iraq" and the dying Kurdish babies and the starving Kurdish women have been addressed to hammer away at the regime in Baghdad even more and may be justify some more intervention or surgical strikes.

But the real problem is that the root causes for dying Kurdish babies and starving mothers has not and is not likely to be addressed. The fact that in Kurdistan, as in many other places in the world, babies have been dying and mothers

starving is because the great leaders of Western civilisation made totally Machiavellian plans to utilise natural resources to the utmost and most selfishly at that.

The West or others should not blame totalitarian leaders and peoples who know nothing but feudal ways for the suffering of the Kurds or other dis-herited peoples, but those who arm and support the totalitarian leaders. The public in the West cannot agree to pay taxes that go to support demagogues and arms and drug dealers as well as racist governments and expect human rights to be respected. Only to then act shocked out of their innocence when massacre after massacre occurs.

Now that the Kurdish issue is addressed, the Shiite issue and the chemical-nuclear and atomic weapons issues must ultimately follow.

The West blocked any lifting of U.N. sanctions on Iraq the last time they sat at the conference table, claiming the Shiites were about to be massacred from the land and air. The sources of the information, as expected, came not from inside Iraq but from Iraqi Shiite opposition leader Ayatollah Al Hakim, who is based in Iran. Investigative teams from the U.N. and various other "peace loving" non-governmental organisations (NGOs) could not confirm the claims. But for those hoping that sanctions



would be lifted all was over.

Unlike the Allied-Kurdish relationship, the Allied-Shiite relationship was more evidently one of absolute opportunism. The Allies had given the Iraqi army an open space to have a go at the Islamic rebels that Saudis and Americans alike disdain for their ideology, which is likely to disrupt the strategic interests of the allies.

Now the latest condemnation of Baghdad has come about through the issue of not giving up atomic, nuclear or chemical weapons caches which may or may not exist. The very fact that the U.S. was

ready to "strike again" at the sound of a shot seems not to have surprised anyone. While most observers of the Middle East scene have reason to believe that Syria may be the next venue for a show of world armaments. It now appears that Washington has not quiet finished with Baghdad.

Indeed, the condemnations of Baghdad for its continued possession of the deadly weaponry is morally justifiable. Only it would be the right place to suggest that one should do what one preaches. If one is truly interested in ridding the world of the hor-

rors of modern weaponry and chemicals and other technological fixtures, then one might as well stop producing and selling them or at least apply the measure across the board to include Israel as well.

The issue is thus not the Kurds, the Shiites, Saddam Hussein's evil weapons or anything else of the sort. The issue is just a little straight forward honesty and some sense of right and wrong. If one wants to designate oneself as policeman of the world, then one might as well have some respect for the law and logic.

West squares to new threat of the lone missile

By Nicholas Doughty

Reuter

BRUSSELS — The threat of a nuclear holocaust, with missiles streaking through the skies to wipe out millions on two continents, has haunted the West for decades.

Now, with the lessons of the Gulf war fresh in their minds and cold war memories fading, western strategists are worried by something more insidious — the risk that a maverick developing country might launch a missile. It wouldn't have to be large to kill hundreds of people.

Tipped with a nuclear or chemical warhead, it could wipe out a city.

Such weapons are easy to hide and not yet subject to effective arms control.

Missiles launched from the Middle East or North Africa could hit southern Europe with ease.

"We don't have to face the holocaust with the Soviet Union any longer," said one senior NATO official. "What we face is the prospect of a holocaust in miniature, far more unpredictable, far harder to stop. It is one of our biggest worries."

As a result, the world's major industrialised nations are now thinking of ways to protect themselves and prevent developing countries from getting missile technology.

"We estimate that in 10 years time there will be some 15 developing countries who will have the capabilities to produce ballistic missiles," U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said ear-

lier this year.

"They will be short and interim-range missiles and about half of them will have nuclear warheads to put on top of them."

The United States leads the field in developing anti-missile defences.

But its European allies — after watching Iraq launch Soviet-made Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war — are showing an increasingly keen interest.

NATO defence ministers, meeting in Brussels in May, discussed the issue in depth for the first time.

"Our missile defence was always planned to defend military units and military installations," NATO's top commander in Europe, U.S. General Johan Galvin, said recently. "If we have someone who wants to kill cities, he is faced by a different picture."

Japan and Israel have also shown some initial interest in the latest U.S. plan to develop what it calls global protection against limited strikes (GPALS).

As Iraq launched Scuds at Israeli cities towards the end of January, U.S. President George Bush ordered a shift of emphasis in the multi-billion dollar "Star Wars" programme, conceived in the 1960s as a defence against Soviet missile attack.

The result was GPALS. The key part of the programme will focus on defences against medium and shorter-range missiles, fired at cities or military installations from anywhere in the world.

"A number of friends and allies will be interested particularly in

the theatre missile defence aspects of GPALS because Third World ballistic missile proliferation is a growing concern to many of them," a senior U.S. official said.

Stephen Hadely, assistant secretary of defence for international security policy, told a panel of the U.S. Senate that better systems were needed despite some success in shooting down Iraqi Scuds with U.S. Patriot missiles.

The United States has also agreed to pay three-quarters of the cost of Israel's arrow anti-missile programme.

On the European front, France, Italy and Spain are developing a new generation of missiles, similar to the Patriot, which could be used to shoot down either aircraft or missiles.

Hadely said it would also be in Moscow's interests to work with Washington in countering "this mutual threat", since many of the developing countries with ballistic missiles or plans to develop them were on the periphery of the Soviet Union.

Those countries include communist North Korea, suspected of pursuing a nuclear weapons programme. Pakistan, India and Iran, diplomats say.

Other countries that worry the West are Algeria — also alleged to be developing nuclear programme — Libya and Syria.

Israel is believed to have nuclear weapons, although it will neither confirm nor deny this, and has developed medium-range ballistic missiles.

Some rockets available to developing countries, like the Scud,

are old and crude but can still penetrate slack defences. Others, using more sophisticated technology, can fly hundreds of miles and hit targets with pinpoint accuracy.

They are attractive because they produce devastating effects relatively cheaply, compared with the human and financial cost of launching a full attack. They are also a potent form of deterrent for any country that feels under threat in an unstable part of the world.

Beyond establishing a new defensive shield against such weapons, the United States has urged other countries to limit the spread of technology that could help more countries acquire them.

Groupings like the missile technology control regime (MTCR), which the Soviet Union has said it would like to join, or the nuclear non-proliferation treaty have tried for years to stop the rot.

Britain and France — with the United States, among the world's biggest exporters of arms and technology — have also spoken out against the proliferation of missiles. But, even if there is fresh political will, progress is likely to be slow.

"You won't get countries like Israel or Syria to scrap the weapons they already have," said one NATO official, who asked not to be identified.

"The question is whether we can stop technology slipping through the net to lots of other countries who have ambitions to become major regional powers. Any of them might turn out to be tomorrow's Saddam Hussein."

Savvy will win

By Samir Shafiq

A MEMBER of parliament denounces the appointment of Prime Minister Taher Masi questioning his family name and digging deep into its origin because, according to the enlightened parliamentarian, the name sounds neither Jordanian nor Palestinian. Accordingly, the deputy further describes the masses as being frustrated, angry and on the verge of exploding over the new government headed by what he sees as an obscure figure.

With such logic, the honourable gentleman will no doubt withhold his vote of confidence in the new government along with other colleagues who oppose it on other grounds and for various reasons.

Certain deputies appear to be upset about a colleague who has accepted a ministerial post without consulting them or obtaining their approval, the new minister being a member of their own bloc in parliament. Yet others see the government as susceptible to peace negotiations with Israel or un-Islamic or too leftist to win their vote.

Historically speaking, this Lower House of parliament was freely elected and as such it has the freedom to do what it likes. But deputies have to remember why they were elected to office and what prompted their election in the first place. Surely, the electorate did not vote in candidates in order to question other colleagues' birthplaces or changes in the education because the candidates promised voters to

make system or the information policy of the Kingdom. The voters made their choice on the basis of more intelligent, more important considerations than the tribal and religious sermons that deputies deliver from time to time.

The people in 1989 were more concerned about bread and butter issues, about rice and sugar shortages and prices, about the debt burden of the Kingdom and economic corruption than they were about peace negotiations, government make-ups and ministerial portfolios. Jordanians voted in mainly those whom they thought were the best representatives to alleviate unemployment, reduce inflation and raise their incomes and standard of living. Logically, it follows that any honourable member of the House should judge the government, its head and organs, not on the basis of which city and town they come from or what colour their eye is, but on the programme the new cabinet comes up with to tackle the real and serious problems that we all face.

Our people are intelligent and politically savvy enough to know right from wrong. Moreover, Jordanians are good enough a people to give the benefit of the doubt to whoever is ready and willing to serve their country's interests. Rhetoric and cynical attitudes by deputies, power-hungry politicians and opportunists can only make Jordanians more true to their beliefs and principles.

King, Li hold 'very good' talks

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Wu, speaking at a press conference, said his country favours the idea of a final settlement in an international conference held under U.N. auspices and attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Jordan considers China's role as an important one in contributing to the fair application of international legitimacy in dealing with the world's problems.

The King said that China can play an important role, which would necessarily concentrate on the need to upgrade principles, defending these principles and values and dealing with all issues in the same measure so that humanity would have a future.

Mr. Wu said that since the Middle East problem has long eluded a solution, it has become not only a threat to regional peace and security but also to world peace.

"This is the longest lasting regional conflict since World War II," Mr. Wu noted.

China, Mr. Wu said, believes that peace and security are inseparable and that the core of the Middle East problem is the "Palestinian issue."

"We believe that Palestinian national rights should be restored and that the Arab-Israeli conflict should be solved within the framework of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338," Mr. Wu said.

"Israel has to withdraw from Arab territories it occupies and Israel's security must be preserved," he added.

But he added that his country believes that "only a political solution" is possible and that China is supportive of all efforts to advance a just solution in the Middle East.

During the meeting between the Jordanian and Chinese sides, Premier Li pointed out that the new international order is faced at present with "a world plagued with the imbalance of forces of power."

Mr. Wu, who reported highlights of the meeting, added that Mr. Li told the King that the new world order should be "fair and impartial."

"The new world order should serve the interest of peace and order taking into account the diversified and different social beliefs and religions," Mr. Wu said.

He added that his country does not believe that any country should be permitted to "impose on others."

"The essence of a new international order is political sovereignty and non-interference and economic equality and mutual be-

nefit," he added.

Jordan and China, Mr. Wu said, agree that arms control in the region should be balanced and comprehensive.

"By comprehensive, we mean all countries and all types of weapons should be included in the arms control efforts. By balanced, we mean the arms control efforts in the Middle East should not aggravate the existing imbalances of forces, let alone create new imbalances," he said.

In answer to a question on American criticism of China's arms supplies to Pakistan and Syria, Mr. Wu said that of all the weapons that are sold to the region "China has sold a tiny proportion."

"We are very responsible in arms sales and we abide by our own principles in selling weapons," Mr. Wu said.

He added that his country ensures that the arms supplied to any client country would serve to enhance the self-defence capabilities of that country and would not break existing balances of power in the world.

China never uses arms sales to interfere in other countries' internal affairs.

"Those who sell larger quantities should exercise self-restraint," Mr. Wu said.

But he added that his country was participating in a meeting of the five members of the Security Council on arms control which will be held in Paris next month and that his country will have a "positive approach" to the discussions.

Pressed further on whether China considers the U.S.'s interference as acceptable, Mr. Wu said: "We believe that these demands should be considered in a larger context of the arms race process."

Later in the afternoon, Foreign Minister Abdullah Nusour met with his Chinese counterpart Chien Chi-Chen and discussed current international efforts to reach a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the elimination of mass destruction weapons from the region.

During the meeting, the two sides stressed the need to apply international legitimacy through U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and a land-for-peace formula.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that the Chinese delegation condemned Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories and its refusal to stop building settlements in the occupied territories.

The Chinese premier is expected to leave Amman today for Iran after he holds another meeting with Prime Minister Taher Masi.

By Martin Woolcott

MAN on the move: in flight, in fear, in hope. The refugee column, the immigration queue, the central rail or bus station daily pouring its recruits into the city — these are images that we think of as peculiarly characteristic of our times. But the globe that we know had been sculpted, into the shape that it now has by vast migratory movements that began long before the fighter bomber, the passport, or the train added impulsion or impediment to the process.

To speak only of the last 100 years, it was migration that created, for instance, a populous and powerful United States, that underpinned the post-war national reorganisation of Europe, that made Israel, that brought into being Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan. Until recently, in spite of all the resentment and disruption that it has always brought in its wake, migration was seen as a positive force in human affairs: indeed the modern world could not have been made without it.

Now we are in newly fearful mood. The immigrant is a figure who seems to portend disaster: his departure from his own society speaks of trouble there, his arrival in his new place speaks of trouble there as well. Behind most discussions of migration today lies a picture as a world divided into a handful of wealth zones surrounded by slum hinterlands with even more chaotic badlands further out — city and favela writ large. The primary wealth zones are of course Western Europe, North America, the Gulf and Japan. Lesser ones exist in Chinese East Asia (Hong Kong and Taiwan), South Africa and South East Asia. The metaphors — "Fortress Europe," "Watch on the Rhine" — are military: the citadels are under assault.

Half a century ago, migration would have been mainly seen as a beneficial process which had been indispensable in the Westernisation of the globe, planting people of European stock in the "new" continents, and moving around others — black, Indian, Chinese — in ways that were morally dubious but undoubtedly had been useful to imperial economic systems. It would also have been assumed to be, broadly speaking, over: an American expert, writing in the thirties, deemed that the world's population had ceased to move because "most of its inhabitants are where they belong."

Thirty years ago, by contrast, the discussion of migration in the West would have been heavily influenced by the general movement away from Western chauvinism. This was the time when the immigration policies of the United States, Canada and Australia were stripped of formal racial bias, and when European immigration policies were liberalised for reasons both moral and commercial, even if this was a liberalisation that was soon followed by numerical restrictions. In those years, too, John Kenneth Galbraith could propose emigration as central to the solution of the problem of Third World development. In The Nature Of Mass Poverty, he argued that emigration had "solved the problem of poverty both for those who left and for those remained behind" in, for instance, Ireland, the Scottish Highlands, and Sweden, and it could do so again

in India and Africa.

A darker view of the process ran alongside. Those who were preoccupied with the population explosion and those who saw migration primarily as an aspect of the modern shift from the countryside to the cities argued that whether or not migrants crossed international boundaries was not the most important issue. The movement of people was creating a world dominated by enormous cities, in turn coagulating into city systems or megalopolises, which inevitably tended to be divided by race and communal origin as well as socially by new extremes of wealth and poverty. Arnold Toynbee spoke of the danger that "the whole of the world's additional population is going to sit up in urban slums of one kind or another" with the danger that the consequent cold war between rich and poor could easily become a "shooting and killing war."

It is these apocalyptic ideas rather than those earlier and more sanguine views to which we are now prey at this uncertain moment in the post cold war era. It is typical of current calculations in Europe that EC experts are working on models suggesting that only 10 years from now the Arab Mediterranean countries will have a surplus population of 100 million, which will, it is assumed, head for the Community.

Other models suggest that economic failure or political disaster in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union could produce a westerly flood of migrants from the former communist bloc. "The Soviet Union," one recent private report suggested "could be the chief source of the huge mass economic or ethnic refugees who might in the near future appear on the doorstep of the West."

In spite of Europe's fears the numbers involved have been limited. Only two or three per cent of EC residents (depending on the estimate of illegals) are recent migrants. In the United States, migrants were responsible for more than a third of national population growth in the eighties, and the eight million who entered the United States in those years were the largest number for a single decade since 1900-1910. These migrant flows are producing significant political shifts in America, where anxiety about Hispanicisation is the American equivalent to Europe's worries about an Arab assault from the south and an invasion from the east. Nor is the fear of migration confined to Western countries. The Japanese are in a state of advanced neurosis about illegal immigration, which their wealth inevitably attracts, but which they see as a threat to Japan's "homogenous" culture. Places like Hong Kong, a society composed almost entirely of the children and grandchildren of migrants, go into spasms when asked to give refuge to Vietnamese, many of them of Chinese origin.

It is hard to say how close to possible reality these various nightmares are. But it is obvious that migration touches late 20th century man in a very vulnerable emotional place. It is part, after all, of a long process of globalisation which has given rise in turn to a defence of the individual, of the particular, of the communal, and of the national against hostile forces. The irony is that the same techniques of industrial organisation, of transportation, of mass culture and popular education for

a time served both the processes of nation building and the processes of globalisation. Powerful nations at least were able to elaborate their national identities (suppressing regional particularisms in the process) while operating in addition as centres for globalisation. The last and greatest example was the United States. But we now understand better than we did in the days of simple anti-Americanism that "Americanisation" was a process as hostile to an earlier kind of American national identity as it was to the identity of other countries.

The sense that cultural identity is at risk is significantly a feeling that is shared by both migrant communities and host societies, and it is the basis for extreme attitudes on both sides. The appearance of racist political parties in Europe has been paralleled by the growth of more

assertive movements among migrants, particularly among blacks and Muslims. There are similar developments elsewhere. The moral complexities here are great. It is perfectly possible, for instance, to view Third World migrants as defectors, taking skills and talents away from poor societies to wealthy ones, and they may at some level so view themselves. The emotional difficulties involved in migrants taking up radical attitudes in their new homes, or attitudes defensive of their original culture, when they themselves put it second to economic advantage in such a crucial decision about their lives, are serious.

The migrant then, even when he may also be a refugee from war or other trauma and not just a seeker after better opportunities, seems a threat to at least some members of the host society

because he is a visible sign of changes which have not been willed or desired. He contributes to the sense that things are out of human control, and that precious values and traditions are being eroded. The migrant himself may well be subject to very similar emotions. He or his family have, by moving, strained their own cultural allegiance and reaffirming it in the new place is both difficult and sometimes provocative.

The French constitution of 1791 affirmed "the liberty of all to move about, to remain, or to leave" and the notion that global freedom of movement is a human right lingers on. If so, it has been a right enjoyed historically only by a minority, and that will hardly change in the future. Nor will it ever be a right, however circumscribed, that is not fraught with problems for those who move,

and for those who receive them. Migrant and host meet in an encounter that is morally tangled and ambiguous. The hosts, the products themselves of the 19th century migrations that created the Western cities, meet the modern equivalents of their own great, or great great grandfathers, often coming, as they did, direct from village and field, in this latest chapter in the urbanisation of the world. Both sides have gained something, and both have lost something; both mourn its passing, and both seek to retrieve it. Neither can claim that right is on their side: both are, equally, beneficiaries and victims of the way our world is changing. And both are better off than at least some of that majority in the poor world who have chosen to stay rather than to move, or who have never had the choice — The Guardian.

Lebanese discover delights of peace

By Ziad Talhouk
Reuter

BEITEDDINE, Lebanon, — Swallowing off bitter divisions from Lebanon's 16 years of civil war, thousands of excited Christians and Muslims are flocking to discover each other's territory.

They belong to the war generation — born or brought up during the conflict which erupted in 1975.

"We are becoming acquainted with new Lebanese on our trips," said Nada Al Haj, a 24-year-old Christian who works in advertising. "They differ in accent and the way they dress but in the end are all Lebanese."

"I just visited the south and the Bekaa (in eastern Lebanon) and now I'm visiting the Shouf — all for the first time. Our country is

beautiful. But the civil war stopped us knowing it."

The government hopes to resurrect Lebanon's attractions for tourists from abroad. For the moment, however, the Lebanese crowd into sites which survived the war relatively intact.

Hundreds of cars and buses now wind in long lines past an army checkpoint each weekend up to the Beiteddine and Moussa palaces in the Druze heartland of the Shouf mountain region south-east of Beirut.

Many of the youngsters on school-organised tours are on their first trips outside their own sectarian enclaves, which under the rule of private armies split Lebanon into a patchwork of fiefdoms.

Civilians who strayed from their own areas during the war

years risked at least being stopped by gunmen, who at times of heightened conflict massacred or kidnapped members of the other sects.

But the Lebanese army, helped by some of the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, took control of much of the country between December and May when most of the private armies were disbanded.

"We learned about Beiteddine in the history books but never had the chance to see it," said Cathrine Rheiz, 23, who came in a 40-car convoy from predominantly Christian East Beirut.

In addition to its architectural attractions, Beiteddine is regarded by many as a symbol of Lebanese unity and independence. It was built around 1800 by

Emir Bashir Shehab II, who ruled Mount Lebanon's Christian and Druze communities for 46 years and established virtual autonomy under the Ottoman empire.

Beiteddine was the presidential summer residence until the civil war, when it was looted. Druze leader Walid Jumblatt then refurbished it and turned it into a museum.

Most of its visitors are Christians, who were forced out of the Shouf in 1983 during battles between the Christian Lebanese forces and Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militias.

Hundreds of civilians were slaughtered in the "mountain war" then. But now politics and economic interests have for many buried the traditional enmity between Christians and Druze.

CBJ takes over troubled bank

(Continued from page 1)

"All indications are that depositors will not suffer any losses since there is enough coverage," said Dr. Faneh. "If there is any loss at all, it will be negligible," he told the Jordan Times.

According to Dr. Faneh, the bank's equity — about JD 9 million (JD 5.5 million in capital and JD 4 million in profits) — is intact in addition to assets worth about \$100 million.

Dr. Malki, also a newspaper columnist, described the situation of the bank as safe and sound and said "all that one can ask for (in terms of assurances over deposits) are in place."

"There is little chance of any depositor losing any money," he said.

Mr. Bilbeisi of BCCI noted the bank was governed by Jordanian banking laws and regulations and that any move to the contrary, from Luxembourg or any other BCCI branch, would not be binding on the bank's assets and operations in the Kingdom.

Many Jordanian businesses and

diplomatic missions in Amman moved their accounts from BCCI in the last two years when reports emerged of the bank's clandestine activities on the international level. Four BCCI officials pleaded guilty to money-laundering in a U.S. court last year, and the American authorities ordered the bank to terminate all its operations within the U.S.

Reports in the American media also said that the bank was used as a front for some of the ill-famous drug cartels of South America and was also served as a front for dubious transactions in violation of international and local regulations in several countries.

Mr. Bilbeisi of BCCI noted the bank was governed by Jordanian banking laws and regulations and that any move to the contrary, from Luxembourg or any other BCCI branch, would not be binding on the bank's assets and operations in the Kingdom.

Many Jordanian businesses and

Hrawi urges U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

In an interview in his 'Ain Al Hilweh office, Mr. Wehbeh said working out the logistics for the transfer of weapons would "take time."

He said the PLO weapons would be gathered outside the camps for storage somewhere in Lebanon under army supervision. Earlier Palestinians had said the weapons would be moved out of Lebanon, and speculation had centred on bases in Yemen or Tunisia.

One senior Lebanese military source said the army would be "flexible about the timing if we feel that the PLO is not stalling for time."

Soldiers came under automatic weapons fire shortly before dawn, and fired back with small arms into an orange grove in the no-man's land separating the army line from 'Ain Al Hilweh.

There were no casualties in the 10-minute firefight which security sources blamed on fundamentalist militiamen, who said they also want to keep their weapons to fight Israel.

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Tokyo Close 4/1/91	New York Close 5/7/91
Sterling Pound	1.6030	1.6155
Deutsche Mark	1.8357	1.8253
Swiss Franc	1.5830	1.5745
French Franc	6.2175	6.1855
Japanese Yen	139.40	136.35
European Currency Unit	1.1208	1.1260

U.S. Per \$100

European Currency Unit 5/7/91

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.95	6.06	6.37	6.75
Sterling Pound	11.51	11.06	10.81	10.56
Deutsche Mark	8.81	9.06	9.25	9.31
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.87	7.87	7.81
French Franc	9.62	9.62	9.62	9.62
Japanese Yen	7.40	7.56	7.40	7.34
European Currency Unit	9.81	9.87	10.06	10.06

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	370.25	7.10	Silver	4.44	.10

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 6/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.688	.690
Sterling Pound	1.1110	1.1166
Deutsche Mark	.3761	.3780
Swiss Franc	.4363	.4385
French Franc	.1111	.1117
Japanese Yen	.4968	.4993
Dutch Guilder	.3344	.3361
Swedish Krona	.1039	.1044
Italian Lira	.0506	.0509
Belgian Franc	.01831	.01840

Other Currencies Date: 6/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8356
Lebanese Lira	.0750	.0775
Saudi Riyal	.1630	.1639
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1873
Egyptian Pound	.1850	.2000
Omani Riyal	1.7800	1.7900
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1873
Greek Drachma	.3300	.3500
Cypriot Pound	1.3800	1.4100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	24/6/1991 Close	3/7/1991 Close
All-Share	112.95	112.45
Banking Sector	108.03	106.35
Insurance Sector	117.22	119.34
Industry Sector	117.76	118.26
Services Sector	131.36	129.13

December 31, 1990 = 100

Soviet parliament opens road to foreign capital

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament has passed a long-awaited law on foreign investment, allowing for 100 per cent foreign ownership and offering concessions to increase production of energy and other natural resources.

"The road to foreign capital is open," said the official TASS news agency after the law was approved by an overwhelming majority.

The legal measures are another step forward in President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme, which has been accelerating in the run-up to his meeting in London on July 17 with leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations.

Mr. Gorbachev successfully lobbied for an invitation to the G-7 meeting to present his case for increased Western support for reforms that are in danger of being derailed by galloping inflation and plunging industrial production.

Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov told a cabinet meeting Thursday that printing presses were having trouble keeping pace with money supply growth, forced to new heights by rising prices and corresponding wage increases.

The foreign investment bill opened the door to a new kind of overseas involvement in the Soviet economy, replacing the dominant joint ventures.

"The creation of enterprises with 100 per cent foreign participation is permitted on Soviet territory," TASS said. "In particular, concessions to foreign investors are envisaged in the production of natural resources."

The Soviet Union is the world's biggest oil producer and has vast reserves of natural gas, gold, diamonds and almost every kind of metal.

"The law grants foreign investors the right to export and import without licenses and frees them from paying customs duties on imports and export taxes," it said.

The legislation excludes foreign ownership of land and restricts access to property sold by the state in line with a privatisation law, approved by parliament last week.

Foreign participation in privatised enterprises will be controlled largely by the state and workers' collectives, who were given priority in plans to sell up to two thirds of state enterprises by 1995.

Communist Party conservatives, who dominate the federal parliament, have criticised Mr. Gorbachev for selling out to capitalism. But most agree on the need to introduce a market economy as the only means of stopping the economic rot.

The investment law provides foreigners with safeguards against any changes in legislation, including nationalisation.

The lack of rouble convertibility will still be a major drawback, but the law guarantees the right to transfer hard currency profits abroad, open rouble accounts in Soviet banks and buy hard currency for roubles in the Soviet Union.

TASS did not say which of the Soviet Union's exchange rates would be applied. The country has four rates — the official rate, a commercial rate, a market rate and a tourist rate.

The official rate is used mainly for accounting purposes, the commercial rate for most trade operations and the market rate, determined at a weekly currency exchange, is for a limited number of authorised banks and companies.

The tourist rate, for Soviet citizens travelling abroad and foreign visitors to the Soviet Union, is based on the market rate.

Private investment in its infancy in Russia and the new law represented a promise of a fair deal for foreigners interested in participating in the birth of free enterprise in the biggest and richest Soviet republic.

Uncertainty about the legal status of foreign investment has been a major factor, along with political instability, in the reluctance of foreigners to launch large-scale projects in the Soviet Union.

The Russian parliament Wednesday adopted privatisation laws more sweeping than similar legislation approved by the Soviet parliament last week.

The Russian law, the latest challenge to the economic jurisdiction of the central government, said the bulk of denationalised state property would be sold at auctions and shares in the enterprises would go on the free market.

"Legal conditions for foreign investment cannot be less favourable than conditions for property and investment of legal entities and individual citizens of the Russian Federation," the law, quoted by the Russian Information

BCCI troubles tarnish Abu Dhabi

DUBAI (R) — Abu Dhabi may face huge costs to save its reputation and prevent depositor panic following the shutdown of Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A. (BCCI) amid allegations of global fraud, Gulf bankers say.

Luxembourg-based BCCI, which controls about \$20 billion worldwide, is 77 per cent owned by Abu Dhabi interests, mainly by the family of Abu Dhabi ruler and president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zaid Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

The Bank of England led a coordinated strike by world financial authorities Friday to freeze the assets of BCCI and Bank of Credit and Commerce Overseas.

Gulf bankers saw little impact on other regional banks but said BCCI's large UAE presence through Bank of Commerce and Credit Emirates (BCCE) threatened to undermine local banking confidence and spark a run on the subsidiary's deposits unless the authorities clearly stated they would back the bank.

"We've got a serious situation developing here where clarification by the central bank and the government is required," said the

general manager of another UAE bank.

"Are they going to protect UAE depositors or not? The public needs to know," he stressed.

The UAE news agency WAM said Sheikh Zaid left to spend a few days in Europe Saturday but did not say where he was going.

One banker said BCCI was holding an emergency meeting. BCCE sources said most of the top management were in Luxembourg.

Bank of England (BOE) Governor Robin Leigh-Pemberton said the fraud arose from attempts by senior executives to cancel losses from BCCI's lending and treasury operations.

Mr. Pierre Jaans, director of Luxembourg's monetary institute, said BCCI posted a "huge operating loss" last year, which had not been made public. "By next week, it would not have had a future either in Luxembourg or Britain," he told reporters.

BCCI holdings controls a maze of banks stretching from London to New York, Nigeria, and Panama.

In January 1990, four BCCI officials were found guilty in the United States of laundering drug money for former Panamanian

leader Manuel Noriega.

Last year, the Abu Dhabi shareholders bailed out BCCI from losses of up to \$1 billion, bankers said.

The bank's 1989 financial report said the shareholders also committed themselves to maintaining its capital base, which means funding any further losses.

Abu Dhabi has used its banking flagship to handle large amounts of the emirate's oil earnings.

The UAE central bank said Friday it saw no irregularities in BCCE operations, but stopped short of saying it would back the bank, and did not say whether it had officially told BCCI to close.

BCCI's eight branches around the UAE were closed Saturday but the 17 BCCE branches were open.

BCCI Bahrain said it would not operate after the Muslim weekend. BCCI in Oman was not immediately contactable.

The speed of the BOE action appeared to have taken the BCCI management by surprise. BCCI Lebanon manager, Mr. Asad Abi Raji, said he was operating but added: "I am trying to contact our head office in Abu Dhabi to find out what is happening."

An estimated 10 per cent holding in BCCI by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) could cause difficulties with other Arab banks but Gulf bankers expected no major impact on regional financial markets outside the UAE.

ADIA holds shares in several Arab institutions, including the two big Bahrain-based international banks: Gulf International Bank and Arab Banking Corporation.

BCCE "has no financial problems and it will continue to serve its valued depositors, customers, and clients," said BCCE Chairman Nahayan Ben Mubarak Al Nahayan, who is Sheikh Zaid's cousin.

A senior source at the bank said there had been no run on the bank's \$5.09 billion dirhams (\$1.3 billion) of customer deposits. "We have been surprised," he said.

In the UAE share market, some BCCE stockholders wanting to get out could find no buyers, brokers said.

BCCI owns 40 per cent of BCCE, which has around one billion dirhams (\$272 million) of its depositors money banked with BCCI, UAE bankers said.

Singh sees no further Indian rupee devaluation

NEW DELHI (R) — India's Finance Minister Manmohan Singh has said he saw no further devaluation of the rupee after it was slashed within three days to 26.05 from 21 to the dollar.

Mr. Singh, refusing to call the drastic two-stage depreciation a devaluation, told a news conference: "The exchange rate is now at a level where you have my firm assurance it can be stabilised, and perhaps even go the other way."

The cuts are widely seen as meeting International Monetary Fund (IMF) terms for a big loan after months of struggling to service \$4 billion in short-term debt in an unprecedented foreign exchange crisis.

"A lot of (Indian) exporters were keeping money abroad," Mr. Singh said when asked how India, with foreign exchange to cover a few weeks' imports, was going to top up reserves pending a major new loan.

"There will now be a return flow of export earnings and capital that's gone out of the country," Mr. Singh said. "Also I think that those foreign commercial banks who have been reluctant to extend lines of credit have now got the right message."

India took a \$1.8 billion IMF loan in January and is negotiating for up to \$5 billion more.

Mr. Singh declined to comment on newspaper reports that the IMF might advance up to \$500 million to tide India over the next few weeks.

Bankers estimate India owes \$70 billion abroad and they expect further IMF loans to come with stiff conditions.

According to rates given by bankers, the central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), devalued the rupee by 9.29 per cent against the dollar Monday and by 11.3 per cent Wednesday, with similar cuts against sterling, the yen and the Deutschmark.

Bankers had expected the rupee to fall to about 30 rupees to the dollar and the two cuts had suggested to them it would happen soon rather than by the end of the year as widely forecast.

The devaluations took them by surprise. The RBI has steadily reduced the value of the rupee over the past two years, but never before so drastically.

Mr. Singh denied any link between the devaluations and IMF terms but said: "I have the fullest possible assurance from the international community that if I do the right thing by this country, the world won't forget India."

He repeated pledges to restructure India's tightly-controlled economy, including some privatisation of state-owned industries.

He has promised any barriers to foreign investment would be removed in a country where businessmen, domestic and foreign, have to negotiate a labyrinthine bureaucracy.

"Our capacity to take quick, hard and sensible decisions that will convince the world that India is in a completely new ball game," Mr. Singh said.

Bankers said attracting foreign investment appeared to be one of the reasons behind the devaluations.

"They will certainly make foreign investment cheaper, and therefore more lucrative, and it seems this is one of the reasons behind the government's action," said one.

"But it will have a bad effect on the economy. We will have recession and high inflation because basic industries dependent on imported components will face the crunch and it will filter down," he said.

India imposed severe curbs on imports earlier this year as it fought off default on foreign debts.

Bankers said some of the hardest IMF terms for India to accept would be cutting the workforce and freezing wages in the public sector, where trades unions are strong.

The bankers and some politicians said they feared such actions could produce social unrest.

Budget constraints may cut German development aid in 1992

BONN (R) — German development aid could be cut next year because of budget constraints, despite Chancellor Helmut Kohl's pledge to increase it.

A spokeswoman for the ministry for economic cooperation said that Development Aid Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger and Finance Minister Theo Waigel had differences over the budget for 1992.

In January, in his state of the nation address, Mr. Kohl said the newly unified German state would increase development aid.

But he has already had to go back on his word not to raise taxes and, with the government bearing the huge costs of unification, less money is available for areas such as aid.

Mr. Waigel said last month he would include new plans for spending cuts in the 1992 budget, the first draft of which he will present to the cabinet on July 10.

He is trying to cut subsidy payments, trim spending and narrow the federal deficit to 50 billion marks (\$28 billion).

The economic cooperation ministry spokeswoman gave no details of the differences between Mr. Spranger and Mr. Waigel. But she said figures in the newspaper Die Welt were outdated.

According to Die Welt, Mr. Spranger wants a budget of 0.21 billion marks (\$4.56 billion) next year but Mr. Waigel wants to reduce it from 8.16 billion marks (\$4.53 billion) planned at present to 8.06 billion marks (\$4.47 billion).

In the 1991 budget, the ministry was allocated 7.96 billion marks (\$4.31 billion) — 3.6 per cent more than in 1990.

Die Welt said the ministry was undertaking "stretching manoeuvres" to make the budget go further.

Federal Express orders 25-75 Airbus cargo jets

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — Federal Express Corp., the giant U.S. overnight package delivery service, has ordered up to 75 wide-body cargo jets from Europe's Airbus Industrie consortium. The Memphis-based company said it had placed 25 firm orders for Airbus Industrie's A300-600 aircraft, with 25 reconfirmable orders subject to cancellation and options for an additional 25 planes. Terms were not disclosed, but industry sources, noting that the freighters cost about \$80 million each, said the total order could be worth about \$6 billion.

The order was the first for Airbus' A-300 wide-body jet to be built in a freighter configuration. Earlier versions have been passenger planes converted for use as freighters. Federal Express said the planes will be powered by General Electric CF6-80C2 engines.

Turkish oil output rises

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's crude oil production rose by almost 50 per cent in the first four months of 1991, reaching 1.54 million tonnes against 1.03 million tonnes in the same period last year, according to official figures. The country needs around 24 million tonnes of crude a year and plans to meet five million tonnes from its own resources. The State Institute of Statistics (SIS) said Turkey had bought 5.57 million tonnes of crude in the January-April period, down from 7.11 million tonnes in the same months of 1990. The fall was largely because of the U.N. ban on trade with Iraq, which supplied 60 per cent of Turkey's oil before the Gulf crisis. Turkey has agreed to buy three million tonnes of crude from Iran this year. It signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia last August for \$1.16 billion worth of crude in Gulf aid. Saudi Arabia will also sell Turkey 8.5 million tonnes of crude at spot prices this year, making it the country's top oil supplier.

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Yemen initials oil production accord with British firm

SANNA (R) — Yemen Friday initiated an agreement for joint oil production with a British company and is negotiating with other foreign firms for exploratory drilling, an official said Friday.

Mr. Askar Ali Hussein, vice-chairman of the Yemeni General Corporation for Oil and Mineral Resources, said Clyde Petroleum was awarded a concession in one of five "promising" sectors in Hadramaut province, about 350 kilometres east of Sanaa.

The sector has an area of 6,390 square kilometres and the formal agreement will be signed later

this month, he added in a statement.

Mr. Hussein said the corporation was negotiating with British, German and other companies for exploratory drilling in the other four sectors.

Yemen has reached agreements with American and British firms to exploit oil resources in several regions, especially Shebaw, about 250 kilometres south-east of Sanaa.

Other Western firms are exploring for oil in the Al Maseela area of Hadramaut province.

ANC elects new governing body as conference closes

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — The African National Congress began choosing a new policy-making body Saturday after solidly endorsing Nelson Mandela and his negotiations with the white-ruled government.

Some 2,000 delegates had to select from more than 140 nominees to fill 50 seats on the national executive committee. Another 40 seats are automatically taken by ANC regional leaders, heads of internal groups such as the ANC Women's League, and the top five leaders in the ANC.

Voting was expected to last all day and results weren't expected until early Sunday. In addition to electing leaders, the conference was expected to review its policy on sanctions and on when to start negotiating with the government on a constitution ending white-minority rule.

The National Executive Committee's makeup should give an indication of the power of moderates vs. militants. A heavy militant influence could hamper prospects for early negotiations, but based on Friday's outcome for top leadership positions this did not seem likely.

Militants distrust the government and fear negotiations will force concessions from the ANC. Delegates Friday gave the top two posts to Mr. Mandela and Walter Sisulu, two of the ANC's most senior and moderate leaders. Mr. Mandela was unopposed for president. Mr. Sisulu trounced militant Harry Gwala for election to deputy president.

Candidates for the National Executive Committee included Mandela's wife, Winnie Mandela, always a controversial figure but more so since her conviction in May on kidnapping and assault charges. The fiery Mrs. Mandela has a large following among ANC youth, but her chances for election diminished Thursday when delegates scrapped the idea of reserving 15 seats on the committee for women.

Another nominee was Joe Slovo, head of the Communist Party. The ANC's close ties with the Communist Party have disturbed government and business leaders, and Mr. Mandela has repeatedly stressed that while the groups are closely allied, each follows its own agenda.

The ANC conference, the first

in South Africa in more than 30 years, has been considered a barometer of the group's success in transforming itself from an outlawed guerrilla group to a powerful political party.

Beset by organisational problems, the ANC has seen President F.W. de Klerk steal the political limelight by carrying through on promises to end apartheid. At the same time, it has watched as one of its main weapons in the anti-apartheid fight — sanctions — start to crumble.

Mr. Mandela opened the five-day conference Tuesday by committing the ANC to resuming negotiations with the government.

The ANC cut off talks with the government in May because of violence in black townships and said it would not resume them until it was satisfied the government was doing everything possible to end unrest.

In a move apparently aimed at assuaging the ANC, President de Klerk Saturday took the unusual step of deploring an attack Thursday on the family of an ANC member attending the Durban



Nelson Mandela

conference. Mr. de Klerk in the past has condemned political violence, but in general terms.

In Friday's voting, delegates also elected Labour leader Cyril Ramaphosa to the secretary-general's post. Ramaphosa, 38, has been leader of the largest labour union, the National Union of Mineworkers, and will bring valuable negotiating skills to the ANC.

Jacob Zuma, another moderate, was elected deputy secretary-general, making him the only Zulu among the top leaders.

Shevardnadze: reasonable people will quit the Communist party

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev is unlikely to quit the Communist Party, but other "reasonable people" will, former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has said.

Mr. Shevardnadze was commenting publicly for the first time on his resignation from the party, which could precipitate a formal split between the hardline and reformist camps that President Gorbachev has been trying to hold together.

Mr. Gorbachev's drive for unity in the country received a boost Friday from the Russian Republic president, Boris Yeltsin, who urged the legislature to find com-

promises and agree to a new union treaty with other republics.

Mr. Yeltsin called for amendments to loosen the central government's control over taxes and foreign trade. But he warned the legislature that if Russia rejects the treaty, "it will mean a political breakdown and destabilisation of the whole political situation in the country."

Mr. Shevardnadze, 63, quit the ruling Communist Party Wednesday. In his resignation letter, he refused to submit to what he called a "kangaroo court" inquiry into his statements that the country needed a strong opposition party.

He has not yet formed such a party, although he and other leading reformers set up an organising committee this week and scheduled a conference in September to take further steps.

Other members of the group include Gorbachev's senior adviser, Alexander Yakovlev, considered the architect of glasnost; Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov; and Leningrad Mayor Anatoly Sobchak. Both Mr. Popov and Mr. Sobchak left the party last year.

It also includes two of Gorbachev's former economic advisers, Nikolai Petrakov and Stanislav Shatalin.

Japanese firm may have shipped weapons to Iran

TOKYO (AP) — Investigators looking into the Iran-contra scandal led Japanese police to suspect that a major aviation parts maker suspected of illegally exporting missile parts also illegally exported gyroscopes and accelerometers, reports said Saturday.

Police plan to ask for U.S. help in investigating Japan Aviation Electronics Industry Ltd. (JAEI), a major military contractor, the Kyodo News Service reported Saturday. It said police suspected the company of illegally exporting aviation gyroscopes and accelerometers worth 700 million yen (\$5 million) to Iran.

Several newspapers, in stories based on unnamed sources in the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, reported a possible link between the arms sales investigation and investigations into the Iran-contra scandal.

"The unveiling of this case was triggered by cooperative investigation (between U.S. and Japanese authorities) on the Iran-contra scandal," reported the mass-circulation Nihon Keizai newspaper.

The Tokyo Shimbun said U.S. authorities gave Japanese police information about Japan Aviation Electronics that was uncovered in investigating the Iran-contra scandal.

A Metropolitan Police Department spokesman said Saturday he could not confirm the reports. The gyroscopes and accelerometers were exported between 1983 and 1984 for use in F4 Phantom fighter jets while Iran was fighting in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, Nihon Keizai reported.

Kidnapped Swedes escape captivity in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Two Swedish engineers kidnapped three months ago by Kashmiri separatists escaped while their captors were sleeping and walked 25 kilometres to freedom Saturday.

Police said Johan Jansson and Jan-Ole Loman arrived at the village of Bijbehara at 5.30 a.m. (0000 GMT) and identified themselves at a police station.

The village is 40 kilometres south of the Kashmiri capital of Srinagar.

The two men, who were later brought to the police headquarters in Srinagar, talked to an Associated Press correspondent before police officials began interrogating them.

Mr. Jansson said their captors moved them to at least 45 places since they were kidnapped on March 31.

They said they were brought to the latest hideout a few days ago and were kept in a locked room of an isolated house with a few guards in another room. They did not know where the house was located.

"At about 1.30 a.m. today (2000 GMT Friday) when all guards were sleeping, we opened the windows and ran away through rice fields," Mr. Jansson said.

He said they walked for 25 kilometres and reached the Jhelum River. After scouting around, they came to the nearby Bijbehara village and found the police station, Mr. Jansson said.

Police had earlier said that the two men were released by the militants in Bijbehara.

Both men were dressed like natives, in loose shirts and trousers, and appeared happy and in good health.

"Several times we tried to escape but we succeeded this time," Mr. Loman said.

They said they were well treated by their captors, the Muslim Janab (Martyrs) Force, one of the several guerrilla groups fighting for secession of the Muslim-dominated Kashmir region from the predominantly Hindu India.

"The food given was very good but we are not used to such kind of food," Mr. Loman said, smiling.

In New Delhi, the Swedish embassy said the two men will come to New Delhi later Saturday and then fly onto Sweden.

The two engineers were working on a hydroelectric project in Kashmir and were travelling to a ski resort near Srinagar when they were taken captive.

In Stockholm, Sweden's Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said the information "comes as a great relief, not least after all the work that has been done in many places."

"We rejoice with the relatives at the hard times being over," he said in a statement.

The Swedes were the first foreigners to have been involved in the Kashmiri separatist, which has been alternately simmering and flaring up since 1947.

The armed rebellion escalated in January 1990 and in a bid to counter a harsh government crackdown, the guerrillas began targeting government officials this year.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Earthquake shakes Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (R) — A five-second earthquake rocked Los Angeles Friday, shaking tiles off roofs, rattling windows and sending people into the streets. The tremor was measured by the California Institute of Technology at 4.0 on the Richter Scale, strong enough to damage buildings. The institute originally measured it at 3.6 but upgraded it after receiving further data. "The walls moved, but it was really kind of a minor shake," police Sergeant William Dolan said. "It lasted long enough for me to get up and walk to the door," resident Susan MacCaul said. A week ago an earthquake measuring 5.8 killed two people, injured more than 100 — mostly with cuts and back sprains — and damaged hundreds of houses. The epicentre was about 55 kilometres northwest of Los Angeles.

Filipino kidnappers free Belgians

MANTLA, Philippines (AP) — Muslim separatists Saturday freed two Belgian medical volunteers and a Filipino they kidnapped two days ago in the southern Philippines, the military reported. Maj.-Gen. Gumerindo Yap, commander of the military's Southern Command, said in a telephone interview with reporters in Manila that the victims were freed at 4 a.m. (2000 GMT Friday) in Pata Island in the Sulu Archipelago, 975 kilometres south of Manila. He said Dr. Marc Biot and paramedic Stephen Lanjo, both of the Medics Sans Frontiers international aid group based in Belgium, were freed without paying ransom through the intervention of local leaders. Their Filipino companion, Imno Manding, was also freed by the kidnappers who were believed to be members of a "lost command" of the Muslim separatist Moro National Liberation Front, Gen. Yap said. The separatists earlier had freed three Filipinos in Dr. Biot's group to deliver a ransom note demanding 2 million pesos (\$71,430) for the remaining hostages' release. Gen. Yap said Dr. Biot's group, aboard a boat, was on its way to Pata Island, from nearby Jolo Island, when it was waylaid by armed men aboard three other sea craft. Several armed groups in the southern Philippines have turned to kidnappings of rich Filipinos and foreigners to finance their activities.

France carries out nuclear test

PARIS (AP) — France conducted its fifth nuclear weapons test of the year at its testing site on an atoll in the South Pacific, military headquarters have said. The energy released by the explosion at Mururoa was equal to less than 10,000 tonnes of TNT, a relatively small blast in comparison with the rest of France's testing programme. On May 30, France detonated a device with a force of 100 to 130 kilotonnes, which the Defence Ministry said was one of the most powerful ever in the testing programme. France has announced its tests since last year, when it reversed a 15-year period in which it maintained silence and the tests were disclosed by New Zealand monitoring stations. France says it needs to conduct six to eight tests a year to ensure the effectiveness of its independent nuclear force.

Top honour conferred on Gandhi

NEW DELHI (AP) — Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, assassinated seven weeks ago, was honoured Saturday with India's highest civilian award, Mr. Gandhi's Italian-born widow, Sonia Gandhi, received the Bharat Ratna Award from President Ramaswamy Venkataraman at a sombre ceremony in the presidential palace. The Bharat Ratna, or jewel of India, is given for public service of the highest order and for the advancement of art, literature and science. Mr. Gandhi was killed on May 21 at an election rally in south India by a suicide bomber who detonated explosives strapped to her waist. Gandhi, the bomber and 16 others were killed in the blast. Investigations have centred on a Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla group. The team charged with investigating the assassination have arrested 10 people, including five Indian Tamils and five Sri Lankan Tamils. Mr. Gandhi is the 25th recipient of the 38-year-old award. Among the previous recipients are South African leader Nelson Mandela and Nobel laureate Mother Teresa. The honour, which is in the shape of an Indian fig tree leaf, is made of bronze with platinum border. Mrs. Gandhi, dressed in a black-bordered white mourning sari, was accompanied at the ceremony by her 21-year-old son Rahul and 19-year-old daughter Priyanka.

NATO pledges closer ties to Romania

BUCHAREST (AP) — The first NATO leader to visit Romania has pledged that the North Atlantic alliance will strengthen ties with Romania. NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner's comments could signal a thaw in the West's relations with Romania, cool because of doubts about the post-Communist authorities' commitment to democracy. "We want Romania to be helped more and more within the European framework. (So) we will intensify our diplomatic relations," Mr. Woerner told a news conference at the end of his two-day visit. Mr. Woerner said President Ion Iliescu accepted an invitation to visit NATO headquarters in Brussels early next year. Visits are also expected by Defence Minister Nicolae Spiroiu and Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, he said. Romania, the last Warsaw Pact nation to establish ties with NATO, has been criticised for signing a treaty with the Soviet Union earlier this year, effectively granting Moscow veto power over future Romanian alliances. No other former Soviet Bloc country has agreed to such a clause in bilateral treaties under negotiation. Mr. Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, also arrived Friday for a two-day visit. U.S. officials would not disclose the purpose of the trip.

Row dashes hopes of early end to Liberian conflict

ABUJA, Nigeria (R) — Representatives of Liberia's main rebel group walked out of a West African summit, dashing hopes of an early end to the 18-month-old conflict in Africa's oldest independent republic.

Two members of Charles Taylor's rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) quit the summit of the 16-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Friday after being asked to join the Liberian delegation led by Interim President Amos Sawyer.

The row, in Nigeria's future capital Abuja, could endanger the results of a peace accord reached on June 30 in the Ivorian capital Yamoussoukro by Sawyer and Taylor.

Under the agreement, whose details remained sketchy, the two leaders agreed to cooperate to implement plans to hold free elections under international supervision.

Taylor also reportedly agreed to let a West African Peacekeeping Force, deployed since last year in the Liberian capital Monrovia, to move into two key rebel-held areas.

"It's less than a week after Taylor and Sawyer embraced each other, and their men are already quarrelling," said a Nigerian official.

NPFL delegate John Richardson told reporters that he and his colleague walked out because

they had come to Abuja on the basis that they would be recognised as a separate delegation.

He said the Yamoussoukro Accord did not imply recognition of the Sawyer government, which is backed by the Nigerian-led West African Peacekeeping Force.

"We don't recognise Sawyer and we would not," Mr. Richardson said.

Earlier Weade Wurh, a Liberian interim government spokesman, told reporters that the NPFL had agreed to be part of a single Liberian delegation in Abuja and to hold general elections as soon as possible.

"For us in Liberia, this is a major breakthrough because it is the first step towards reuniting the country and reconciling all our differences," Wurh said.

Another interim government delegate later said the NPFL walk-out indicated that Taylor planned to renege on the Yamoussoukro agreement.

"It shows that Taylor is not serious about peace. It will not be the first time he has scuttled peace plans," he told Reuters.

However NPFL Radio Friday said the rebels would be forming a party to contest elections.

Radio Gbarnga, in central Liberia, called on NPFL fighters to lay down their arms and return home after a bush war which left thousands of dead and brought the country to its knees.

Texas policeman investigated over beating of suspect

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A car theft suspect whose beating by a police officer was captured on videotape left jail on bond, and authorities considered criminal charges against the officer.

Officer Edward James Parnell III was relieved of duties with pay until an investigation of Wednesday's beating is complete.

"Our posture at this time is we're conducting a criminal investigation," police chief Thomas Windham said. Internal affairs officers and the Tarrant County district attorney were involved in the investigation, he said.

While it could take several days for charges to be filed, chief Windham said, "I don't think there was any gray area in this situation."

Officer Parnell had arrested Ernest Alvin Anderson on suspicion of car theft and was driving him to a police station when Anderson kicked out a rear window and tried to jump out on Interstate 30.

Officer Parnell stopped the car, removed Mr. Anderson from it and was videotaped striking the suspect 28 times with a police club. A woman videotaped the beating from a home near the highway.

The woman gave the tape to a television station, whose broadcast of it was reminiscent of the March 3 Los Angeles incident in which law officers beat a speeding suspect.

Unlike the beating in Los Angeles, which involved a black suspect and white police officers, both officer Parnell and Mr. Anderson are black. The 32-year-old officer Parnell has declined to give police a statement.

Mr. Anderson, 21, was treated at a hospital for cuts and bruises before being jailed.

He was released from the Tarrant County jail after posting \$2,500 bond Friday morning. Court records list a South Fort Worth address as his home, but he was not there later in the day.

However, on Thursday, he told KXAS-TV that he had become angry in the police car because he wanted his handcuffs loosened.

"I can't understand why he was hitting me, because I couldn't struggle," Mr. Anderson said. "He hit me so many times I passed out."

Several newspapers, in stories based on unnamed sources in the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, reported a possible link between the arms sales investigation and investigations into the Iran-contra scandal.

"The unveiling of this case was triggered by cooperative investigation (between U.S. and Japanese authorities) on the Iran-contra scandal," reported the mass-circulation Nihon Keizai newspaper.

The Tokyo Shimbun said U.S. authorities gave Japanese police information about Japan Aviation Electronics that was uncovered in investigating the Iran-contra scandal.

A Metropolitan Police Department spokesman said Saturday he could not confirm the reports. The gyroscopes and accelerometers were exported between 1983 and 1984 for use in F4 Phantom fighter jets while Iran was fighting in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, Nihon Keizai reported.

GLINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — The lazy summer air was heavy with flower scents Friday in this Serb-populated town in Croatia, but under the gaily coloured cafe umbrellas, talk was of bloodshed.

"Here you see only one kind of people, angry people," said Boris Martinovic, a balding and bearded Serbian lawyer. "We will have complete ethnic civil war."

GLINA, 65 kilometres south of the Croatian capital of Zagreb, typifies the conflict facing Yugoslavia. Beneath a calm surface, people await flames from smoldering fires set before they were born.

In a lazy park, Yugoslav army soldiers lounge on Soviet-made T-72 tanks, nestled among statues of old heroes, incongruous among the heavy aroma of roses and clover. Some joke with passers-by.

But a ranking officer, who identified himself only by saying, "my name is my name," double-checked to see that an ambulance was full of gas.

"We are afraid," he said, nodding toward the bullet-pocked remains of a police station stormed by Serbs on June 26, after Croatia proclaimed independence. Two Croatian policemen were killed.

In the aftermath, three Serbian townsfolk were shot dead near a

monument to 1,564 Serbs killed 50 years ago in the Orthodox Church by Croats under a government sympathetic to the Nazis.

The federal army moved in afterward, part of a discrete deployment across regions of Croatia inhabited largely by Serbs. Most of GLINA's 7,000 inhabitants fled last week and only 1,000 have returned.

Although much attention is focused on Slovenia, to the north, many Yugoslavs worry that the greatest potential for violence is in the heartland between Belgrade and Zagreb, where Serbs meet Croats.

On the surface, life is normal among rich meadows and forested hills. A farmer riding an antique tractor is a relic from the past, except for his Batman cap. Widows in black drive fat cows to market.

At a bridge north of GLINA, a Croatian guard was less menacing than comical, with handcuffs dangling from an outside flask vest and the banana-shaped clip of his AK-47 held together with electric blue tape.

But, deep in the trees, motorists catch glimpses of near war: Tanks and ambulances, aging militiamen with rifles only slightly younger than they are.

The war so far has been fought

with symbols, while the guns are silent. In GLINA, someone blotted out the name of Zagreb on a road sign. Near Zagreb, tape covers a sign for Sisak, a Serb-populated town near here.

Flags are the main symbols. Huge Croatian banners — red, blue and white, with a chessboard at the centre — fly from roadside stores in the breakaway republic.

In GLINA, hastily painted Serbian standards — 4 Cs on a grid — have appeared on walls.

In a confrontation where no side is right or wrong, Martinovic, the Serbian lawyer, gave the Serbian point of view, insisting that the present was only the logical consequence of the past.

"The (GLINA) attack was a spontaneous action by Serbs. The Croatian flag looks very much like the flag from the Nazi time, and they didn't like it. GLINA is a colony of Croatia, and we have to free ourselves," he said.

Gojko Loncar, a school-teacher, and Carlo Ivancovic, a computer programmer, nodded assent.

Croats argue that Serbian rights are protected today, what-

Two months ago, Serbian villages massacred 12 Croatian guardsmen when they showed up at night to investigate a disturbance. Other such incidents followed.

"How can they do this?" one Croatian officer asked two reporters Thursday at a roadblock near Zagreb after he confirmed a fresh attack farther east, where Serbian villagers killed two guardsmen on patrol.

Across Yugoslavia, other conflicts have different origins and singularities. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, with Muslims as well as Serbs, the issue touches on religion. In Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians have settled on land the Serbs regard as sacred, it is turf.

Few analysts risk a guess about what might happen in most of the troubled nation, but many believe that if there is a flashpoint which might light the powder keg, it is along the Serbia-Croatia border.

In GLINA, Mr. Martinovic and his friends agreed that the batreds were too old, too deep to be resolved by negotiation.

"Yugoslavia as it is, is finished," he said. Repeating his earlier judgment, he added: "We will have complete ethnic civil war. I am sorry, but that is our destiny."

COLUMN

British poems of 13 centuries on database

LONDON (AP) — The ultimate English poetry anthology, containing every inspired or wretched line published by 1,350 poets from Anglo-Saxon times to 1900, will soon be available. "English poetry," its entire output over 1,300 years, will be contained on four computer discs or one magnetic tape, 2,400 feet (731 metres) long, for £22,000 (\$35,200). "It may sound expensive but it will be cheaper than trying to acquire nearly 5,000 volumes," said Stephen Pocock, the senior project editor at publishers Chadwyck-Healey Ltd. of Cambridge. The discs will become available between March 1992 and March 1994. "It is the richness of English poetry, its long history and its variety, which makes our literature so appealing to so many people," he said in a recent interview. "All the published work of these poets will be included: the famous and the completely obscure, whether it was poetry of genius or just plain awful. Even famous poets like (William) Wordsworth wrote some dire stuff at times," he said. Even one of Wordsworth's worst lines will be included: "This piteous news so much it shocked her, / she quite forgot to send the doctor." Besides the great masters like William Shakespeare, John Milton and Lord Byron, the project will include little known versifiers.

Teenage Thai mother sells week-old baby

BANGKOK (R) — A teenage mother from Thailand's impoverished northeast sold her week-old son for the price of a ticket home, police said Friday. The 16-year-old girl drew a large crowd at a bus stop on the outskirts of Bangkok Monday when she said she wanted to sell her child for 100 baht (\$4), an officer said. The girl said she needed the money to travel home to Buri Ram province. Police quoted Wilai Teptoh, a 33-year-old barber, as saying he decided to give the money to the mother out of sympathy for the baby, who was crying. Wilai reported the incident to the police Wednesday and said he and his wife were glad to have an addition to their four children.

Taiwan bans Playboy magazine

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan has banned the Chinese-language edition of Playboy magazine for publishing lewd pictures of nude women, officials said. "The magazine has damaged social morals by violating standards of decency set out in the nation's printing laws, and it has repeatedly ignored our warnings to improve," said Liu Jing-Hsin, spokesman for the Taipei City Government. Sales of the magazine, which is published in Taiwan, will be prohibited for one year, he said by telephone. Playboy is registered in Taipei, giving the city the power to ban it island-wide. The Chinese edition appeared in Taiwan in March last year and has a monthly circulation of about 30,000. Tony Kwok, general manager of the magazine in Taiwan, was unavailable for comment. He denied in an interview earlier this week that Playboy had broken any laws, and said the magazine would seek legal advice over the government's warnings. Playboy has had a rocky relationship with the authorities since its Chinese edition appeared. About 450 copies of the first issue were impounded after the city government accused the magazine of offending public morality.

Violinist wins hollering contest

JACKPOT, Nevada (AP) — A violinist who yelled "Have a good, safe trip hold on, mama" won the 12th annual national hollering contest. The mighty shout from Mary Alice Jacobson of Boise, Idaho, was intended to initiate a pioneer call. In the days when miles separated settlements, people used intonations with specific meanings that could be heard for up to three miles (five kilometres). Margaret Halvorson of Lake City, Iowa, a former hog-calling champion and a three-time winner of the hollering match, took second with, "a wagon train is coming" Laura Egner of Filer, Idaho, placed third, making this year the first time women have swept the top spots. The yellers are judged on volume, the length of the call and the quality of the intonation.